WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION
THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT BUYER'S GUIDE

NEW TECH TVs THAT BEAT PLASMA

Better pictures for half the price of a flatscreen

BIG IN 2005

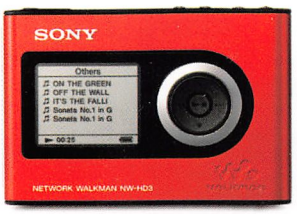
The hot hardware to start saving for now

ARCAM'S NEW WONDERBOX

Say hello to the Solo – the all-in-one CD, DAB & amp

HIP TO BE SQUARE

M-Cube gives a fresh shape to surround sound



SONY vs iPOD

Let the MP3 battle begin!

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THE UK'S NO.1 BUYER'S GUIDE

Designed and made in England.

a coherent philosophy

Over 20 years Cyrus' digital engineering has been at the forefront of what is possible in CD performance. The pin sharp imaging, subtle resolution and timing possible from our latest CD 8x is responsible for re-setting the benchmark for performance. To learn more about Cyrus' latest award winning CD players, the new DAC X and the wider range of Cyrus' modular system options, visit our website where you will also find details of our carefully selected retailers who can help you learn how your audio system could be transformed by investing in Cyrus audio components.

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
CD PLAYER
CYRUS CD8x

The new Cyrus CD 8x is this years What Hi-Fi CD Product of the Year.
And WHFS&V say of the matching 8vs amplifier...
"Here's a machine that advances the ability of its excellent predecessor by an almost absurd degree. The Cyrus 8vs is an absolute superstar" Cyrus 8vs Supertest Winner (Oct 04)

WHAT HI-FI? SUPERTEST WINNER

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

OUR PROMISE

WE WILL ALWAYS BE BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE SOURCE OF CLEAR, EXPERT AND INDEPENDENT ADVICE ON BUYING AND PERFECTING YOUR HI-FI AND HOME CINEMA

This month

FROM THE HOME OF HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Clare Newsome
EDITOR
clare.newsome@haynet.com

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST technology show, International CES, might have taken place in the surreal venue of Las Vegas, but its focus was firmly on real-world, affordable home-entertainment kit. You can read all about it on p28, and unlike in previous years, you won't have to wait months for all that hot hardware to head your way.

Take Arcam's Solo – this stunning one-box hi-fi system was only launched at the show last month, but we've already got a world exclusive review of it (on p6), and it'll be in the shops any day now. It's a similar story for Mission's M-Cube speaker system (p22) and the ThemeScene H57 projector (p12), not to mention the collection of new-generation rear-projection DLP TVs we unveil, starting on p50.

Another CES plus point was the amount of new hi-fi products, proving that the quest for ever-better music reproduction is alive and kicking. We've got great examples of that crusade in this issue's amplifiers test (p72), plus a *Temptation* (p80) that's impressed us enough to be considered for our reference system.

If your prefer your music more mobile, we've got a storming portables showdown this month, with Apple's iPod taking on Sony's first MP3-compatible player.

For more insights into what's new – including an exclusive high-definition demo, plus all the free hi-fi and home cinema advice you need – come and see us at the Bristol Show later this month. Just like Vegas, but without the slot machines, showgirls or Elvis impersonators. See you there!

ps Don't miss any of our future exclusives – or a free DVD of *The Incredibles* – by subscribing on p34.

OVER 45 PRODUCTS TESTED

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

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HOT NEWCOMER p12

ThemeScene H57

The picture from this £1900 DLP projector rivals that of the class-leading products from ScreenPlay – a very high-quality, quiet widescreen display at a very modest price

Ratings you can trust from the magazine with 28 years' experience ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Good ★★★☆☆ Average ★★☆☆☆ Below par ★☆☆☆☆ Don't bother

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

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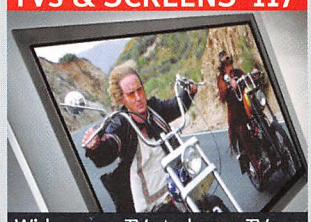

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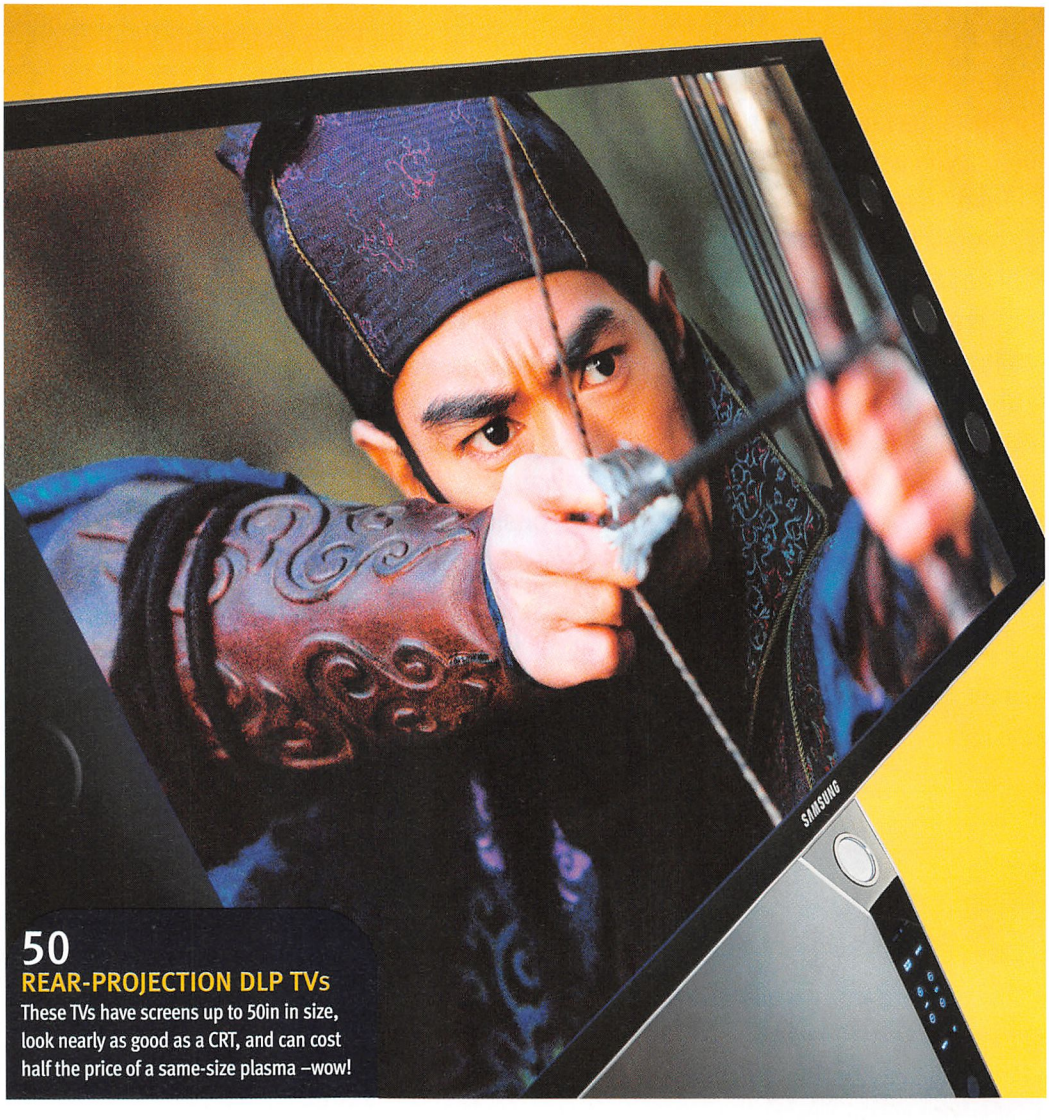

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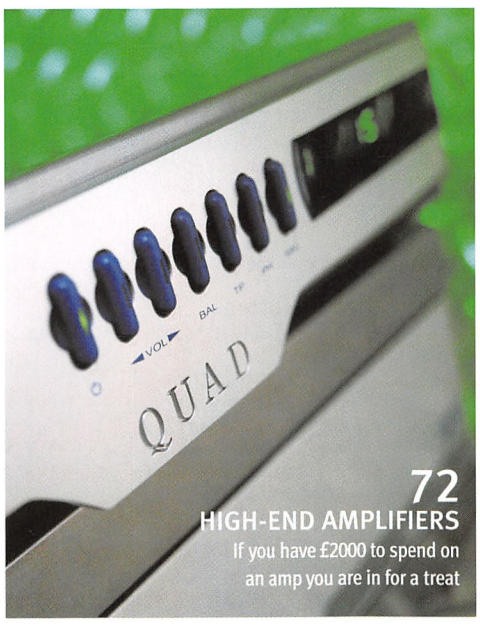

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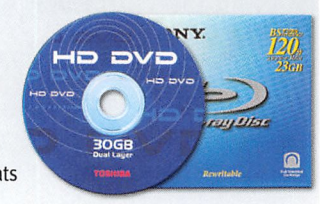

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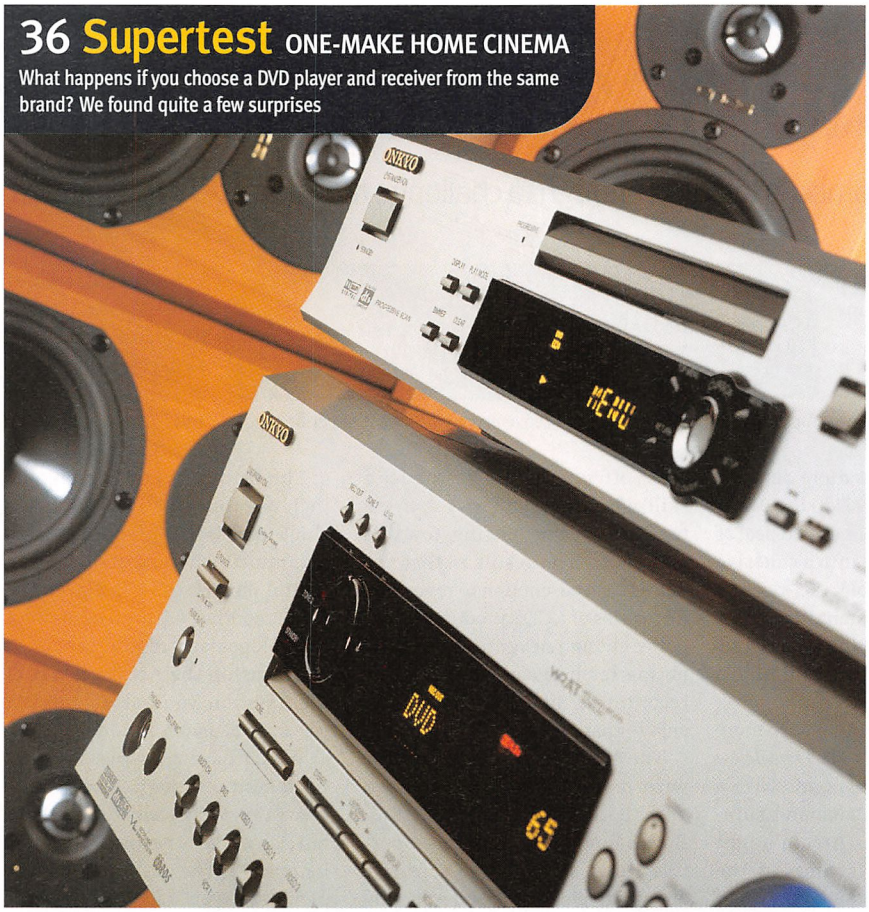

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A bumper selection of CDs and DVDs this month

Musical Solo has to be heard

Arcam's CD player, amp and DAB tuner combo is talented enough to challenge the sound of hi-fi separates

Arcam Solo £1000

STEREO CD RECEIVER

FOR

Excellent all-round sound, combined with all the convenience of a one-box product good build and finish

AGAINST

Lacks separates' upgrade potential

VERDICT

Arcam has struck gold with the Solo: if you want fuss-free hi-fi, you must put this on your shortlist

★★★★★

YOUR CHOICE HAS always been simple: those who value convenience buy a one-box solution like this CD/DAB tuner/amplifier combination, and those who want good sound quality don't.

However, the Solo blurs these boundaries. It's the first integrated product to get close to pleasing all of the people all of the time. Well, that's not quite true: Linn got close first with its successful Classik – something that Arcam clearly had in its sights when designing the Solo. The advantage of not being first onto the market means that you know exactly what's required to come out top, and for us that's exactly what the Solo does.

The Solo is a great-sounding piece of equipment – the first true alternative to the separates hi-fi at this price. Note the word 'alternative': we're not saying that the Solo is the best-sounding product at this price, because we suspect that a combination from, say, Cambridge or NAD might just edge it out.

But it would be a mighty close contest, and that's our point. Arcam has tried hard to make the Solo a product that covers all bases with minimal sacrifice, and it has been a big-time success all round.

Arcam's Solo combines style and convenience with true hi-fi performance

CD performance is great, just as impressive as the engineering ingredients suggest (see the panel below for more details). Try Bach's *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major* and the Solo picks out a good deal of detail, arranging it into a cohesive and musical whole. It doesn't become flustered when things start to get busy, producing as spacious a soundstage as we've heard from a unit of this type.

Move on to something with more drive, say, Outkast's *The Love Below* set, and the Solo responds with a generous dose of drive and sure-footed timing. This Arcam might not be a rhythm champ in the fashion of Cambridge's Azur 640 separates, or be the last word in attack, but it does well enough in each area to avoid serious criticism.

The tonal balance is on the warm side of neutral, too, though once again it doesn't stray far enough to cause offence. Arcam has struck a skilful balance that's easy to listen to without ever edging towards blandness. The result is that the Solo is capable enough to reveal the intricacies of a CD's production, but polite enough never to sound rude no matter how sub-standard the recordings. Sit back, listen and enjoy – that's what the Solo is about.

The story is similarly positive with radio. The Solo is equipped with both DAB and FM bands. Both sound good, and the respective tuner sections are sensitive enough to pick up a good selection of stations. Noise levels are low and overall resolution pleasing. As with any tuner a quality aerial is a must for the best results.

So we know that the Solo sounds good. What's it like to use? The remote handset works well; its buttons sensibly placed and sized. As befits a product at this price, the Solo's fit and finish are both also first-rate.

The feature count is high, and includes four line level inputs, a single tape loop, plus both preamp and multiroom outputs. There's a digital out for the CD player and DAB, together with a useful range of analogue and digital inputs. If you're using the Arcam as a bedroom system, you'll also appreciate the array of alarm options.

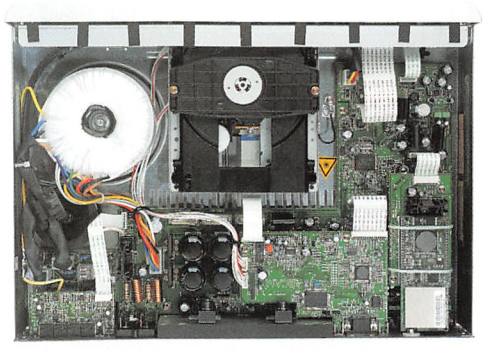
We do have a couple of minor complaints, though. The control software works well on the whole, but isn't quite perfect. If you're listening to the radio and want to play a CD you have to select the correct input first – otherwise, none of the CD controls will function. On other products pressing the CD drawer eject button is enough to change inputs. Also, the front panel buttons don't feel positive to use.

It wouldn't take much for Arcam to sort out these problems, and we hope it does, because in most respects the Solo is a smashing, unassuming product. At last, style, good sound and convenience are no longer mutually exclusive.

WHAT'S HIDDEN INSIDE THE WONDER BOX?

Arcam hasn't skimped on the internals of this CD/amp/tuner. The CD transport, digital-to-analogue conversion circuitry and audio output stage is essentially the same as the Award-winning CD73T, so it's no surprise that the unit sounds good.

The tuner section uses the DAB/FM circuitry from a forthcoming standalone Arcam tuner, so puts performance first, too. Only the amplifier section is wholly unique to the Solo: principally because of the lack of space. It outputs 50 watts per channel. Impressive figures, though less stringent conditions than normally used for separates have been applied to get them. Even so, the Solo is likely to be happy with almost any speakers it's partnered with.



TECH SPECS

CD SECTION:
DAC Wolfson 24-bit
DIGITAL OUTPUT Optical
TUNER SECTION:
BANDS DAB/FM
PRESETS 30
AMPLIFIER SECTION:
INPUTS 4 line level
PHONO STAGE No
HEADPHONE Yes
PREAMP OUTPUT Yes
POWER OUTPUT 50 watts per channel

DON'T MISS...

DENON'S BIGGEST, HEAVIEST, SURROUND AMP EVER

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THEMESCENE'S GREAT VALUE NEW DLP WIDESCREEN PROJECTOR

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MISSION'S M-CUBES ARE FLAT-PANEL SPEAKERS WITH STYLE

p22

"The Solo can reveal every single intricacy of a CD's production, but it also handles poor recordings"

THREE SPEAKER CHOICES FOR YOUR ARCAM SOLO SYSTEM

BUDGET SPEAKERS

Wharfedale Diamond 9.1 £180

★★★★★ December 2004

The Diamonds are budget gems, offering sparkling performance. These are the minimum you should consider for the Solo.

MID-PRICED SPEAKERS

Epos M5 £349

★★★★★

May 2005

Recommended speakers would be these Epos units. They have a striking combination of timing, dynamics and punch. Perfect for the Arcam.

HIGH-END SPEAKERS

Dynaudio Audience 52SE £950

★★★★★ December 2003

If you've got the money to spend then the additional openness of the treble, extra detail and sublime timing from the Audience 52SEs will have you amazed. They could get the best out of much more expensive electronics, but the Solo will drive them well.

Perfect form and sound.

The form is artistic. Beautifully crafted like the body of a musical instrument. The sound is exquisite, and the combination of perfect craftsmanship and state-of-the-art technology is unique. This new Canton loudspeaker series represents pure musical enjoyment and timeless design. Its name is Vento.

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pure music

For more information please visit www.canton.de or phone +44 (023)9250 1888

A simple but solid plasma set

Panasonic TH-37PW7 £1750

37IN PLASMA TV

FOR
Price; good detail and contrast levels

AGAINST
It's not very futureproof, with no HDMI input and an 852 x 480 resolution that's not High-Definition ready

VERDICT
It doesn't have the ability to be a class-leader, but you get very solid performance and value nonetheless

★★★★☆

PANASONIC'S NEW PW7 screens offer several options: speakers are available for £399; a TV tuner board and box add £450; S-Video, Scart and component video inputs increase the price by £150. But where's the digital video input on this 37in TV, you ask?

Considering that this RGB Scart TV uses picture-transfer technology that's two generations old, it's not a bad effort

Apparently, plans to include an HDMI terminal were shelved at the last minute. Now, given that Panasonic has just launched an HDMI-equipped DVD player – the DVD-S97, reviewed on p19 – it's odd its latest flatscreens come without compatible socketry.

Our review sample was an RGB Scart-only model, but nevertheless provided perfectly acceptable images. Using a set-top-box, there's good detail and minimal traces of fuzz or noise. There's slight pixelation of edges, especially around fast-moving objects, but that's to be expected when you're using an RGB Scart video input.

Switch to DVD playback, and it's a case of more of the same. Images might lack the pin-sharp definition and clarity expected from a progressive scan or HDMI signal, but they're still likeable enough for Scart, revealing a fair insight into the action.

Contrast also deserves a mention: blacks are deep, rich and deliver good differentiation and detail in the rain-soaked opening scene of *Hellboy*.

As tested, this Panasonic can't be faulted for effort. A component video terminal board would have allowed us to push the screen's performance, and the lack of HDMI is strange, but the TH-37PW7 is still a solid purchase.

ALSO CONSIDER

Goodmans GTV42P2
£1500 ★★★★☆ December 2004
Only a Scart connection, but a decent picture for the money

Sony KDE-P37XS1
£3400 ★★★★★ October 2004
A 2004 Award-winner, the Sony oozes style and performance

Challenging for top CD honours

Exposure 2010S £600

CD PLAYER

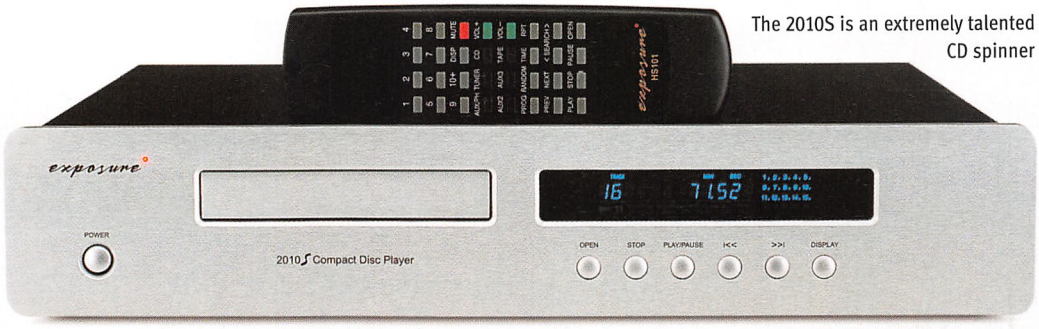
FOR
Characteristic 'Exposure' rhythm and pace; punchy lower frequencies; exciting dynamics

AGAINST
Some might prefer a warmer sound

VERDICT
Exposure's latest incarnation of its entry-level CD player is exhilarating, and fully deserves top marks

★★★★★

RECENT EXPOSURE KIT has offered thrilling dynamics and pace, but a combination of over enthusiastic treble and basic casework has meant four, not five stars. However, the 'S' edition of the company's entry-level CD player signifies a change in tune, for Exposure, and our verdict.



The 2010S is an extremely talented CD spinner

All the positive sonic traits remain in place, but to those now you can now add a sweet top-end. The build has also improved, and in this price category only the exceptionally well-built Inca Designs Katana significantly surpasses the 2010S.

Spin a few classical recordings, on the Mercury Living Presence label, and you fully appreciate the 2010S's excellent dynamics: Bach's *Suites for Solo Cello* thrills from the first bow, and attention levels remain high throughout. Switch to the Los Remeros' guitar quartet and the player picks out masses of info, presenting complex Vivaldi pieces in a well separated and roomy manner.

This machine is no music snob, either, and revels in all genres. It energetically punches out Black Sabbath's eponymously titled 1970 album with confidence and attitude, but pleasingly, there's no nasty treble sting. Its top timing means foot-tapping is obligatory, and it keeps the beat during even hugely demanding rhythmic moments from Miles Davis's *Bitches Brew*. Tonal balance leans towards the, er, lean, so avoid partnering this player with bright-sounding cables or electronics.

The 2010S is a class act, and make sure you read next month's *Group Test*, when it's up against rivals from Cyrus, Inca and Roksan. Then we'll see if it's a class champ, too.

ALSO CONSIDER

Cyrus CD6
£600 ★★★★★ December 2003
This Award-winner is the right choice if you value musical detail

Inca Designs Katana
£600 ★★★★★ October 2004
Build quality is exceptional, while delivery is weighty and smooth

SUPER NATURAL BEING

HELICON C200 & S600

Nature never ceases to amaze us! Whenever on the lookout for truly innovative solutions, nature constantly proves itself to be miles ahead of the technological ratrace – thus continuing to serve as an unlimited source of inspiration to us all: artists & engineers alike...

3D AUDIO

Proprietary ribbon and dome tweeter technology meet in perfect synergy in our Helicon range of loudspeakers to create a transparent, holographic soundstage. Strong, lightweight composite materials and low-loss suspension excel by allowing our drivers to react with lightning speed to even the most subtle variations in the source material. This is not unlike the immensely rigid, yet feathery light insect wing. The dragonfly masterly balances an amazing cocktail of awe-inspiring speed and three-dimensional mobility, making it capable of outperforming any airborne challenge on the fly...

FEATURES

- Wide Dispersion
- 3D Audio
- Low Resonance Cabinets
- Time Coherence
- Hand Crafted
- Amplifier Friendly

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IN ADMIRATION OF MUSIC

Behemoth is a surround giant

Denon AVC-A1XV £4000

MULTICHANNEL AMPLIFIER

FOR

Extraordinary sound quality; amazing flexibility and features; staggering standards of build; easy to use

AGAINST

Get your kit rack reinforced now...

Verdict

A veritable leviathan of an amplifier, and an incredibly sophisticated design to boot – truly world-class

★★★★★

Underneath this shy, retiring exterior beats the throbbing mechanical heart of a monster. Yup, the AVC-A1XV is a bit of a beast alright

EDDIE IZZARD ONCE observed that we throw the word 'awesome' around too lightly these days. For example, a great cheeseburger isn't really *that* awesome: if it was, people would be queuing around the block to get into the local Burger King.

But for the new AVC-A1XV, we're more than happy to deploy 'awesome', and a host of other superlatives besides. The AVC-A1XV is the biggest, heaviest, most powerful one-box multichannel amp ever made. Denon has dubbed its monstrous new creation 'The Behemoth', and we can't think of a more appropriate sobriquet.

Certainly, the Denon looks every inch the multichannel heavyweight. It tips the scales at a mighty 44kg, and stands 28cm high and 50cm deep. It won't fit in most equipment racks: we deployed it in its own Mana stand.

That size isn't just for show. Delve into this amplifier's capabilities, and you begin to understand why it has to be so large. The AVC-A1XV boasts a series of firsts: for example, it has no less than 10 channels of power, each rated at a monstrous 170w. It's also the first amplifier to include HDMI and DVI-D video switching (with full multichannel audio capability for HDMI), the first to include provision for up to six rear speakers (see panel, left) and four zones of multiroom audio, and the first to incorporate room correction software, provided in this case by Audyssey Laboratories.

There's a lot more to cover here, so we'll have to be brief. Any incoming analogue video signal can be deinterlaced and scaled by the Denon's integral Faroudja DCDi video processor. FireWire and Denon Link digital connections provide the optimum-quality connections for DVD sound (as an alternative to HDMI), and high-quality audio DACs and digital sound processing chipsets abound.

We could go on, but we'll run out of space, so let's talk sound. It's easy to sum up: incredible, fantastic, wonderful, utterly compelling... and, of course, awesome. Used with our seven-speaker reference array, the Denon generates astonishing sounds with crushing assuredness. Notions like 'stress' or 'strain' don't exist: instead, the AVC-A1XV generates effortless, fluid and positively huge dynamics. It's remarkably composed, too, especially if you use the amp's room-correction facility: the sound is always seamless, always refined, yet when the need arises, truly savage in its intensity. Even music, so often the bugbear of products in this class, is highly impressive.

Denon's AVC-A1XV 'Behemoth' breaks new ground in this class, that's for sure. We can't wait to put it up against its rivals: see our next issue for that seismic showdown.

TEN CHANNELS, 1700w = AWESOME SOUND

The AVC-A1XV includes 10 channels of amplification, each rated at 170w, the aim being to provide remarkable installation flexibility. Some examples? You could run a conventional seven-speaker system, and use the spare channels to power a stereo system in a second room. Alternatively, you can run two separate 5.1 surround systems in two separate rooms. Not tempting? Why not bi-amplify every speaker in a 5.1 system instead? Or you could try a system with an amazing nine speakers, including no less than *six* rears. Either listen to all of them, or use different types of rear dedicated to music and movies and 'switch' between them.

TECH SPECS

POWER 10 x 170w
DIGITAL VIDEO INS DVI-D, HDMI x 3
DIGITAL AUDIO INS Firewire x 2
HDMI x 3, Denon Link 3 x 1, coaxial x 6, optical x 6, plus optical out x 3
ANALOGUE INS 13, inc phono
ANALOGUE VIDEO INS Component x 6, S-Video x 9, composite x 9
DIMENSIONS (hwd) 28 x 43 x 50cm
WEIGHT 44kg

ALSO CONSIDER

Pioneer VSA-AX10Ai
£3000 ★★★★★ December 2004
The latest version of this terrific amplifier is a great all-rounder

Yamaha DSP-Z9
£3300 ★★★★★ March 2004
Our 2004 Award-winner is a truly sensational nine-channel unit

ThemeScene's big-screen bargain

ThemeScene H57 £1900

DLP PROJECTOR

FOR
Excellent picture performance; quiet; well-equipped; affordable

AGAINST
Very little; progressive scan processor is good but not quite perfect

VERDICT
A real breakthrough projector, giving you high-quality widescreen ability at a very modest price

★★★★★

AS YOU MIGHT know, one company has dominated in our recent projector reviews: the US giant ScreenPlay received no less than three of our Awards in 2004.

But ThemeScene clearly means to make a fight of it, and has priced its new line-up of DLP (Digital Light Processing) projectors every bit as aggressively as its American rival. The new H57 is even cheaper than its direct rival, the ScreenPlay 5700, yet has a broadly similar spec: it offers a true 16:9 widescreen chipset, a PAL-friendly resolution of 1024 x 576, and internal progressive scan processing, courtesy of Texas Instruments, rather than the more ubiquitous Faroudja.

The H57 also provides all the input sockets you could want, including an RGB Scart input (via an adapter) and an HDMI-compatible DVI-D socket. And, while we take every manufacturer's performance figures with a pinch of salt, the ThemeScene's low noise (23dB), long lamp life (4000 hours) and high claimed contrast ratio (3500:1) look truly formidable on paper.

But the best bit? Turn the H57 on, spend a few moments levelling it out and setting it up – comparatively easy by class standards – and you'll be blown away by the picture. Colour richness is terrific, low-light detail exemplary, and the blend of rich black depth and fresh, punchy white shades does justice to even murky, moody movies such as *Alien Versus Predator*. The best results come from using the DVI-D socket, and not only because this method uses a digital video transfer: it also means you bypass the H57's internal progressive scan processing, which is good, but isn't quite a match for that which you get from the best DVD players.

Otherwise, we've got no concerns. For the money, this is an outstanding projector, and a potential class-leader.

Well equipped and capable of terrific picture performance, the affordable H57 is a real home cinema bargain

ALSO CONSIDER

Panasonic PT-AE700
£1700 ★★★★☆ January 2005
Quiet, well-equipped (including an HDMI input) – a fine performer

ScreenPlay 5700
£2200 ★★★★★ January 2005
Currently the champ, we'll put it up against the H57 very soon

Xbox system is fun, but at a serious price

Spherex Xbox 5.1 £400

MULTICHANNEL SPEAKER SYSTEM

FOR
Solid build quality; satellites' quirky looks; fantastic spread of sound

AGAINST
Lacks dynamic ability; uncomfortable being pushed; dialogue is unnatural

VERDICT
Excellent on paper, but the Spherex multichannel system just can't quite match our high expectations

★★★☆☆

WITH EVERY Xbox game having a 5.1 surround sound track to rival the movie DVDs the console also plays, this speaker kit is a logical move.

Initial impressions appear to be extremely promising. The sub does all the signal processing and handles Dolby Digital, Pro-Logic II and DTS discs. A panel on the cabinet hosts all the relevant connections, including two optical and one coaxial digital inputs. There's even a USB input, for two-channel playback from a PC.

The subwoofer and satellites are solidly built, the latter using an 'omnipolar' design (similar to Mirage's Omnisat system) to aid sound dispersion and creates a deep, wide and tall soundstage.

The technology works: during the battle of the beasts in *Alien Versus Predator*, the speakers spread the effects far and wide. You find yourself looking round the room just in case something's hiding in the corner.

The Spherex system uncovers a fair amount of detail, but it does lack the insight of class-leading systems.

Five unusual speakers give a great spread of surround atmospherics

The subwoofer fires out a fairly weighty and muscular sound, which impresses during the *Hellboy* portal scene.

However, for the money, the sats do lack the dynamic subtlety and versatility of the top systems at this price. Voices can sound hard, closed in, and lacking in emotion and realism. Also, when pushed by lively action, the system can be difficult to listen to.

The Spherex may still suit your needs: it should be ideal for keen gamers. However, it lacks the all-round ability we'd expect for £400.

ALSO CONSIDER

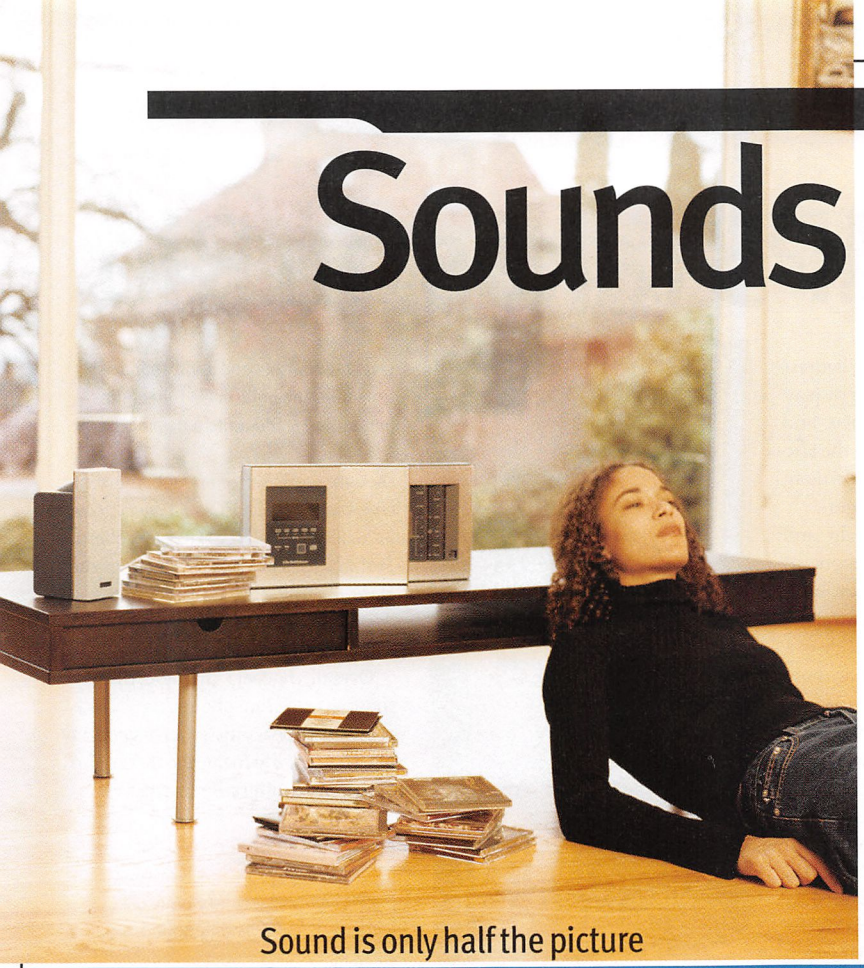
Klegg M8 501
£700 ★★★★★ January 2003
A sub/sat package that boasts comprehensive performance

Creative Inspire 5.1 Dig
£250 ★★★★★ June 2002
This 2002 Award-winner still has excellent decoding and power

GUIDE TO DOLBY TECHNOLOGIES

Sounds good

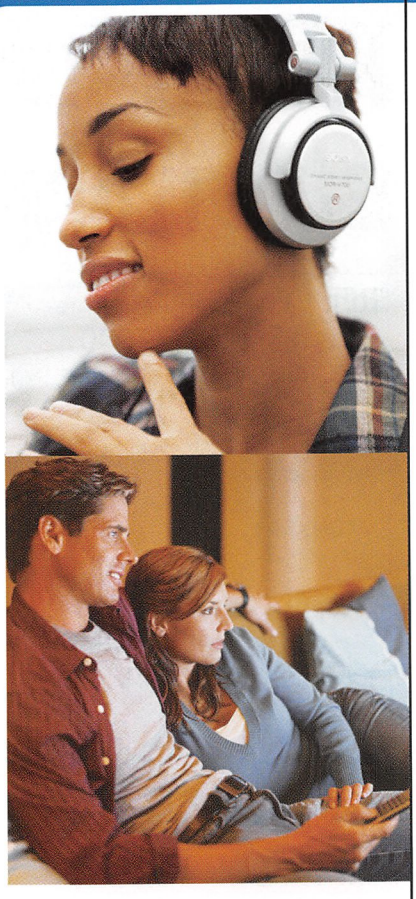
Most of us have heard of Dolby, we've seen the double-D symbol on our hi-fi, pressed the button on the car stereo for noise reduction, and watched Dolby® Digital trailers in the cinema. You read the product reviews listing all the various Dolby technologies and know they're a good thing to have. But what do they all do? When should you use them? What can they give you?



Sound is only half the picture

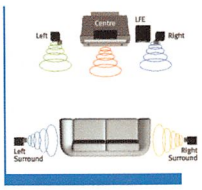
Without sound, we'd be lost. We'd have no idea when the doorbell was ringing, what Pat was saying on *EastEnders*, or how fantastic the pod racers sound in *Star Wars: Episode One* when you listen to them zooming past in surround. This is why it makes sense to get the most, aurally, out of all your content by using the most appropriate Dolby technology.

If you want to watch films, TV, even listen to music in surround sound, Dolby has technologies which allow you to do this from five, six, or seven speakers. Whether it's a DVD with Dolby Digital 5.1 or a stereo source, you can enjoy both in surround sound. There are also virtual technologies which deliver a realistic surround experience from two speakers or through headphones.



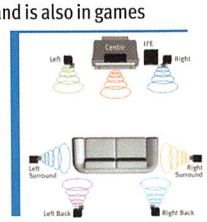
DOLBY DIGITAL

Dolby Digital unlocks the world of cinema surround sound in the home. A sophisticated technology, it can deliver mono, stereo, or up to 5.1 completely distinct and independent (discrete) channels of sound. It's the standard for audio reproduction on DVD worldwide. The film director and sound team create a sound mix with 5.1 discrete channels of audio (see right), and this is replicated as the director intended through DVD or some television broadcasts.



DOLBY PRO LOGIC II

Pro Logic® II transforms any stereo source into highly realistic and convincing surround sound. The technology recognises and unlocks directional clues in the source, delivering a five-channel output from radio and TV, digital music such as MP3 and AAC, CDs and video cassettes, revealing the hidden magic in your existing entertainment collection. It is found in almost all home theatre AV receivers and is also in games consoles and some car audio systems.



DOLBY PRO LOGIC IIx

Dolby Pro Logic IIx technology is a further extension of Pro Logic II, enabling the listener to experience natural and seamless 6.1 or 7.1 channel surround sound, whatever the source of the original soundtrack. 7.1 (see right) gives an extra two back channels for a more immersive experience.

DOLBY DIGITAL VIRTUAL SPEAKER

Dolby Virtual Speaker creates the illusion of having five speakers, where in reality only two are present. Sophisticated sound algorithms "place" sounds in the areas where speakers would be, and use room modelling techniques to delay the delivery of sound, tricking your brain into thinking that sound is coming from five ideally-positioned speakers. Dolby Virtual Speaker allows you to experience surround sound in situations where having five speakers is impractical.

Dolby Headphone is a technology included in selected hardware devices which, when any pair of headphones is plugged in, creates a realistic surround sound experience. Listening feels open and pleasant, avoiding listener fatigue. It's ideal for those occasions when the other occupants of your house are asleep or when watching DVDs on the move.

For more explanations of Dolby technologies see www.dolby.com

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iRiver mini MP3 takes on Rio

iRiver H10 **£199**

5GB MP3 PLAYER

FOR
Colour display, photo storage, recordable FM tuner; good sound; highly impressive user interface

AGAINST
Very little; the software provided a minor gripe; PC-only

VERDICT
An excellent addition to the MP3 market, the H10's versatility sends it soaring towards the top of the pile

★★★★★

SMALL, LIGHTWEIGHT AND an array of colours seems to be the way forward as far 'mini' MP3 players are concerned. Following Apple and Creative's efforts, iRiver turns its hand to an ultra-portable player in the form of the 5GB H10 – the smallest, lightest jukebox available with a colour display.

Weighing in at a mere 96g, and measuring just 10 x 6 x 1.5cm, the H10 feels how a mini player should do in your hand – both light and slight.

The colour screen is bright and clear, as are the menus throughout. Navigation is using iRiver's new horizontal touch pad – which isn't a million miles from the Zen Micro's slide bar, but thankfully it's somewhat more responsive and much easier to use.

Moving from music to radio, or from JPEGs to text files is simple. Files are transferred using the free iRiver Plus software, which operates on what looks like a simple drag and drop from window to window affair, but proves to be somewhat confusing. Files only transfer when restarting the software, rather than transferring instantly as they're dragged from your computer (it'sPC-only) to the H10.

Moving JPEGs and text files doesn't require the iRiver Plus software, and so proves to be much more painless than moving music files (MP3, WMA and ASF compatible).

Likeable controls and good sound – from both the built-in FM tuner and music files – add up to a desirable unit

Once on, the array of play modes for music is impressive, and just when we thought we'd fiddled enough, there is a five-bar graphic EQ to tweak, too. Sonically, the iRiver H10 is excellent. Perhaps it lacks the bass detail of the class-leading Rio Carbon, but the depth of EQ options allows you to go some way to compensate for this.

Overall, the cool 1.5in colour display, the ability to store photos, the recordable FM tuner, plus a fairly good 12 hour battery life mean the iRiver H10 has plenty to offer over its rivals.

ALSO CONSIDER

Rio Carbon
£199 ★★★★★ February 2005
Lightweight and easy to use, with class-leading sound, too

iPod Mini
£179 ★★★★★ February 2005
A great choice for those who value form as highly as function

REL's sub is another storming performer

REL Storm 5 **£1000**

SUBWOOFER

FOR
Articulate and musical performer; fine build and easy to use

AGAINST
Some rivals sound more muscular

VERDICT
Yet another excellent subwoofer from Welsh wizards REL – this Storm 5 is a top-class product

★★★★★

ALL THE REL subwoofers we've reviewed recently have sounded the same. That might seem like a criticism, but it's not meant to be. It shows that the brand has engineered each product to a consistent, and judging by the performance, high standard.

Listen to any one of them, whether it's the £550 Stampede, the £800 Strata 5, or the Storm 5 here, and you hear a common sonic signature. Extra money buys greater authority and extension, but the ingredients of agility and tunefulness flow through each equally.

Tuneful? Not a word used often in subwoofer reviews, but deserved in this one. Play surround or even two-channel music using the REL's high-level input and the Storm 5 will noticeably improve scale, authority and dynamics without spoiling your system's rhythmic ability. It takes a little effort to fine-tune performance, but the informative user manual and intuitive remote make things easy.

We suspect the vast majority of subwoofer buyers are going to put one at the end of their home cinema set-up and wait to be hammered into submission. The Storm 5 is happy to comply.

The 25cm downward-firing driver lives in a sealed cabinet, and the high-quality 200w amp gives clean, fast bass with oodles of clarity and control, even when faced with the big action scenes in *Matrix: Revolutions*.

True, you can buy even more low-end weight for this kind of money, but such subs sound loose and blurred next to this one. REL recommends connecting its subs through both low-level and high-level inputs, so they can bolster the output of the front speakers as well as carry out conventional LFE duties. It works, too.

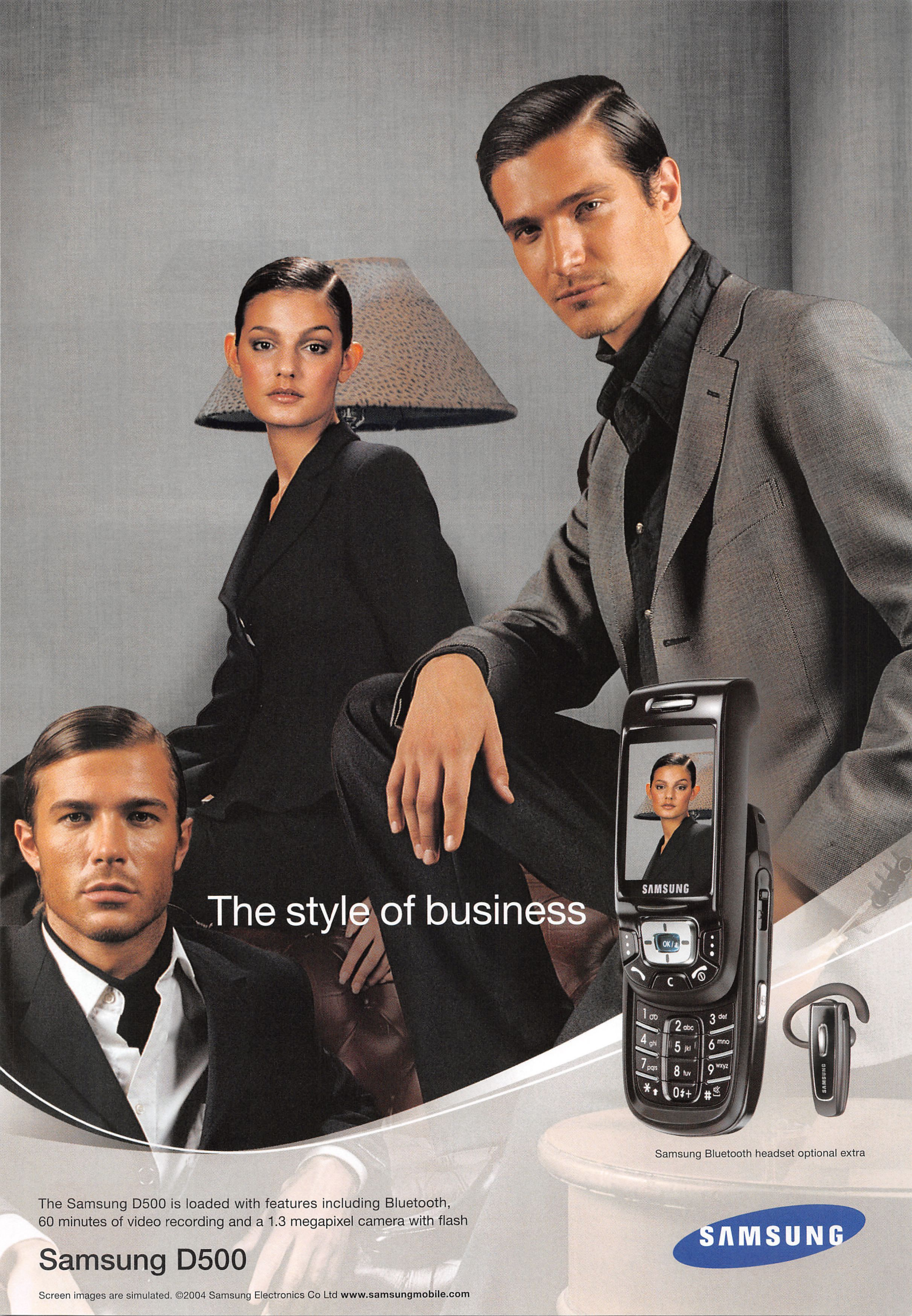
The Storm 5 is a fine addition to the ranks of £1000 subwoofers, and a serious rival to class-leaders such as B&W's Award-winning PV1.

More conventional-looking than the B&W PV1, but the REL is seriously impressive

ALSO CONSIDER

B&W PV1
£950 ★★★★★ Awards 2004
Award-winning sub combining clever design with a top sound

Sonus Faber Gravis
£1099 ★★★★½ October 2003
The Gravis sounds rich and fluid – it looks beautifully crafted, too



Samsung Bluetooth headset optional extra

The Samsung D500 is loaded with features including Bluetooth, 60 minutes of video recording and a 1.3 megapixel camera with flash

Samsung D500

SAMSUNG

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award yourself the best you can buy.

NAD's long standing reputation for producing the very best sounding audio equipment you can buy is legendary.

And NAD equipment still continues to win awards throughout the world for offering peerless performance levels and unbeatable value for money.

Why settle for less when you can award yourself the best?

Shown above, C352 Stereo Amplifier, the 2004 What Hi-fi Sound and Vision? magazine Product of the Year with its matching CD Player, the C542. Both models available in titanium or traditional grey finishes.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
STEREO AMPLIFIER
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NAD

Audica's bold design pays off

Audica CS-System 1 £650

MULTICHANNEL SPEAKER PACKAGE

FOR

Intriguing idea that works fairly well; composed, authoritative sound; excellent standards of finish; value

AGAINST

A slight lack of stereo width

Verdict

Innovative and thoughtful: a real eye-opener of a package, and great to listen to as well

★★★★★

IT'S A BRAVE company indeed that tries to break into the sub/sat speaker market. KEF and Mordaunt-Short dominate the sector, with each brand offering hugely successful, highly respected and great-value speaker systems that are loved, quite rightly, by both customers and dealers alike.

But that's precisely what Audica has chosen to attempt – and we reckon this fledgling brand is poised to make quite an impact, strong competition or no. Initially, the new company has launched a three-strong model range, of which the system before you, the CS-System 1, is the entry level.

As you can see, it's a little unusual, in that (apparently) you only get three speakers for your money, but don't worry: this isn't some wacky new '3.1' system. The CS-System 1 is targeted at TV owners, and in particular flatscreen buyers, who want better sound and vision performance, without filling their homes with speakers.

It works like this: the large 'centre' speaker, the CS-LCR, houses all three front speakers. The main left and right designs are mounted at each end of the central enclosure, but aren't (as you might imagine) angled outwards. Instead, all three sets of drive units fire towards you in the conventional manner, the argument being that what you lose in stereo width, you gain in cohesion and midrange punch.

It's certainly an unusual idea, but it makes sense for a certain type of customer – and, besides, heard as a system, the concept works remarkably well. Despite the very small drive units used in each enclosure (tiny 5cm mid/bass affairs, coupled to 14mm tweeters), the Audica manages to avoid harshness or 'edge' to its sound: instead, it delivers a relatively rich, full presentation, helped in no small part by a weighty but articulate active subwoofer, the CS-Sub8. True, there is some lack of width to the front soundfield, but in the context of the system's many other sonic virtues – and in particular, in light of its entirely decorous conduct under duress, a real achievement for speakers so compact – we can be forgiving.

Certainly, there's no disputing the quality of the finish of every speaker in the package, which is exemplary. You even get all the cabling you'll need in the box. That's why, given its price, we think this system is a real winner. KEF and Mordaunt-Short watch out!

TECH SPECS

SENSITIVITY 87dB/w/m
FREQUENCY RANGE 80Hz-23kHz
IMPEDANCE 4 ohms
POWER HANDLING 100w
DIMENSIONS (HWD)
CENTRE 9 x 80 x 19cm
REARS 19 x 7 x 19cm
SUBWOOFER 42 x 35 x 35cm

This unusual three-speaker system works remarkably well, aided by a good-quality subwoofer that has plenty of authority

INSTALL YOUR SPEAKER SYSTEM IN STYLE

You get compact swivelling brackets for the CS-S1 rear speakers as part of the purchase price (tall pole stands are a £125 option). Meanwhile, the CS-LCR centre has its own, specially isolated stand to decouple it from any flat surface you might plonk it on. However, you can also choose from an optional wall bracket, allowing you to mount the centre either above or below your TV as you prefer. Finally, and most attractive of all, is the 'Generic' display stand (also available as a wall bracket), which can be used to support any mainstream make of plasma or LCD TV. The price? £1000 – and amazingly, that includes the price of the speakers too!

ALSO CONSIDER

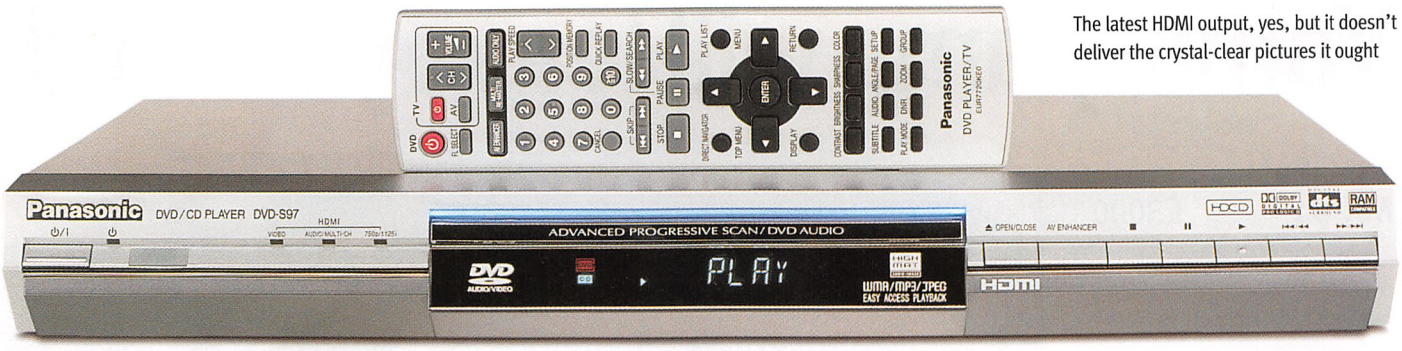
Mordaunt-Short Genie
£800 ★★★★★ November 2004
Our 2004 Award-winner: a great all-round package at this price

KEF KHT1005
£500 ★★★★★ April 2004
Tiny, well-made and capable of great multichannel performance

Why waste time listening to poor sound systems when you could be listening to true high fidelity? Solo, the new integrated system from Arcam, represents the best of Arcam music technology housed in one sleek, easy-to-operate unit. Solo consists of an audiophile CD player and a powerful high performance amplifier combined with a DAB digital radio and high quality FM tuner. All for £1000. The result is a product that is much more than the sum of its parts - a music system that's a delight to use and will surprise and captivate all who listen.

ARCAM
solo

Tel: 01223 203200 www.arcam.co.uk



The latest HDMI output, yes, but it doesn't deliver the crystal-clear pictures it ought

Digital socket doesn't deliver

Panasonic DVD-S97 **£300**

DVD PLAYER

FOR

Comprehensive spec; great movie sound; fine build

AGAINST

The digital picture falls short of what we would expect

Verdict

Minor aspects of the Panasonic's performance are adequate, but the main event is a let-down

★★★☆☆

IF ONLY AN exhaustive list of features, a promising technical specification, and a fashionable blue light was enough to guarantee a class-leading product. If that was the case, this review would be over by now – the Panasonic would have the full complement of stars and we'd be on to something else already. But we're only too aware that a lengthy list of attributes doesn't automatically translate to a machine that can leave its rivals trailing in its wake.

Nevertheless, we were impressed enough by this DVD player's bald statistics to be quietly optimistic for its chances. After all, Panasonic has managed to shoehorn an HDMI output (promising highly accurate picture fidelity from suitably equipped displays), progressive scan ability for both PAL and NTSC sources, and decoding for Dolby Digital, DTS and DVD-Audio discs into a player that stands just 6cm high. Hey, they've even thrown in HDCD decoding for those who (a) remember what that is, and (b) are determined that their DVD player should be as flexible as possible. On paper, this seems a thoroughly sorted device; in the metal, it looks the part. And the price is certainly right.

First impressions aren't always useful, though – just ask that bloke at Decca Records who turned down The Beatles. Once connected to a suitable screen, and with the sumptuous *Hero* loaded into the smooth-sliding disc tray, the DVD-S97 is perplexing.

We're in no doubt as to the many benefits of the HDMI connection to picture quality, because we've tested numerous displays and players so equipped – but had this Panasonic been our first encounter with the technology, we would probably have been more equivocal.

The DVD-S97 delivers a picture with an impressive degree of stability and depth of field, but the colour palette is noticeably muted and edge-definition is more approximate than we would have liked. There are also some minor issues where motion-tracking is concerned – that's to say it doesn't track flawlessly.

> "The colours are noticeably muted and edge-definitions are more approximate than we would have wanted"

These shortcomings are put into greater perspective with a downshift (nominally, at least) to analogue component connections. The winning depth of field and stability fall away a little, but not to a disastrous degree, while the other less impressive aspects of the picture are, equally, slightly more compromised. In other words, the difference between digital and analogue just isn't as great as it should be.

Movie sound (from *Hellboy*, this time) is much more successful: it's hefty and distinct, with a good eye for detail and splendidly well defined dialogue. It'll come as no great revelation to learn that stereo sound is altogether less accomplished, HDCD or no HDCD. Vague imaging and a two-dimensional presentation mean this machine is not about to oust your CD player from your affections.

It's hard to get past the impression of the ball being dropped here. Everything is in place for the Panasonic DVD-S97 to set an agenda – it's well made and good-looking and, on paper at least, does everything you want a digital disc player to do, and at an aggressive price. The less critical aspects of its performance are acceptable – DVD-Audio sound is agreeable and the analogue picture is competitive, if not class-leading. But the digital picture, surely this machine's raison d'être, is mysteriously lacking.

TECH SPECS

VIDEO OUPUTS HDMI, component, RGB Scart, S-Video, composite
AUDIO OUTPUT: Optical, coaxial, six-channel, two-channel
PROGRESSIVE SCAN PAL, NTSC
PLAYABLE FORMATS: DVD-V, DVD-A, DVD-R, DVD-RAM, SVCD, VCD, CD, CD-R, CD-RW, MP3, JPEG
DIMENSIONS (HWD) 6 x 43 x 25mm
WEIGHT 2.5kg

ALSO CONSIDER

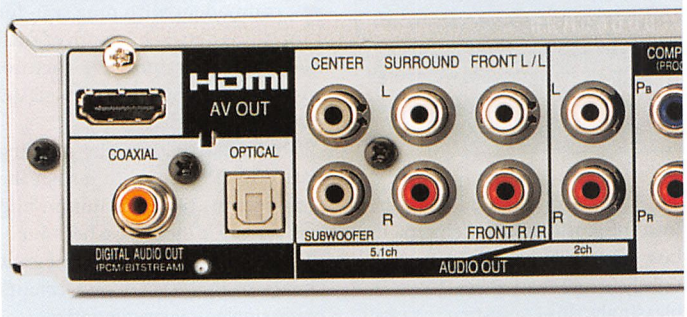
Pioneer DV-575A
£150 ★★★★★ November 2004
No digital out, but this universal player has a fabulous picture

Denon DVD-1910
£230 ★★★★☆ December 2004
If you need DVI or HDMI, this player's digital images are super

WHY ARE DIGITAL CONNECTIONS THE ANSWER?

Digital formatting and packaging is everywhere in your home entertainment system, and nowhere more so than in your home cinema package. And yet plasma and LCD screens, digital TV and DVD have always mostly relied on analogue interfaces – inevitably, this aspect is the weakest link in your otherwise all-digital chain, and image and sound quality have been frequently compromised.

Given a screen and a DVD player fitted with the High Definition Multimedia Interface, (HDMI) though, picture information can be retained as digital data from the disc all the way to the display, which – theoretically – should improve picture quality no end. And, of course, this method uses just a single cable between the DVD and screen, cutting down on cable clutter and cost.



Yammy amp will leave you cold

Yamaha MX-D1 £3000

STEREO POWER AMPLIFIER

FOR
Fabulous build; loads of power

AGAINST
It doesn't sound very good

VERDICT
The MX-D1 is packed with clever technology, but musically it's a tremendous disappointment

★★☆☆☆

Use of a switch-mode power supply and digital circuits produces the slim shape

FIVE HUNDRED WATTS per channel: looks impressive on paper, doesn't it? Particularly when you consider that Yamaha's MX-D1 power amplifier isn't packed to the rafters with heatsinks, and weighs little more than a decent mid-priced integrated.

Look inside, and all is revealed: Yamaha uses a switch-mode power supply (like the subject of this month's *Temptation* on p80), which is smaller and lighter than the conventional arrangement of mains transformer and bank of smoothing capacitors.

That's not all: the audio circuits are digital, though the MX-D1 doesn't count as a pure digital amp because the inputs are analogue only – there are phonos and balanced XLRs.

The build quality is terrific: this unit is superbly crafted, and feels like it'll last more than a lifetime. It's fussy about mains leads, though, so chuck away the supplied cable and use a good quality specialist alternative. Merlin's Black Widow and van den Hul's Mainsstream both improve matters.

This power amplifier will play the likes of Eminem's *Encore* at ear-splitting levels with ease. That well-crafted casework gets warm, but control and authority remain absolute.

The presentation is forthright, kicking out the Bush-bashing *Mosh* with force. Midrange is a touch lean, but remains clear, so the rapid-fire lyrics are easy to follow.

However, the MX-D1 is a flawed performer. It flattens dynamics and tramples over the subtleties that communicate emotion in a voice or instrument. You know a piece of kit is in trouble when Nina Simone's *Feeling Good* struggles to sparkle. Add ponderous bass and a strong electronic edge at high frequencies, and stars melt away.

Yamaha has used the sales slogan Natural Sound for many years. Sadly, this power amp can't manage that.

ALSO CONSIDER

Audionet Amp1
£3000 ★★★★★ April 2004
Combines muscle with finesse better almost any other amp

Roksan M-series 1 mono x 2
£2200 ★★★★★ September 2004
Digs up masses of detail, and also has a very natural midrange

One-box Tatung impresses for less

Tatung 5150S £159

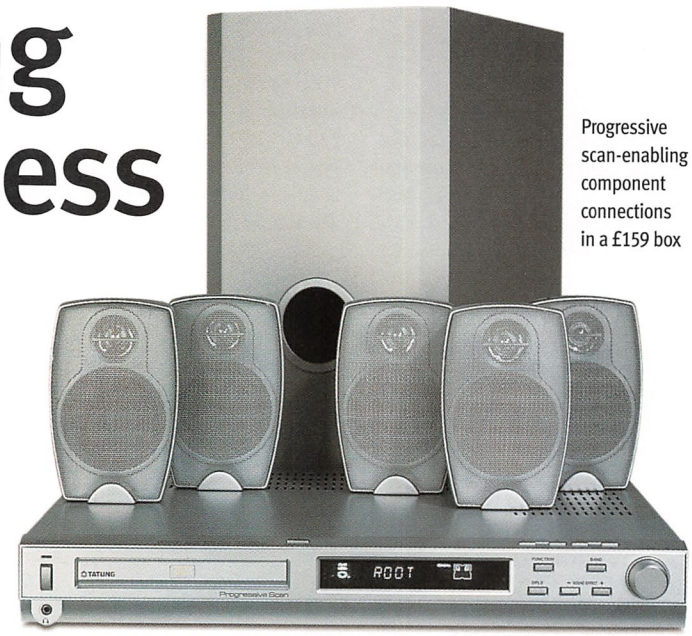
HOME CINEMA IN A BOX

FOR
Ease of use; cracking picture; sound; diminutive size; price; connectivity

AGAINST
Feels cheap; slightly muffled sound

VERDICT
A massively impressive system that would be a definite five-star product if the minor imperfections were cured

★★★★☆



Progressive scan-enabling component connections in a £159 box

TATUNG HAS BRAVELY ventured into the world of home cinema in a box – 'brave' because this is such a tightly fought market nowadays. But pleasingly, this is a system to savour.

Out of the box, the Tatung offering feels a little cheap and lightweight, but five minutes later – all it takes to set it up properly – the system starts to show its true colours. The picture is good even via the basic RGB Scart connection. There's some noise on the screen and a little detail is lost, but it's not enough to spoil your fun.

The full potential is realised when playing a DVD through the progressive scan component connection – yes, component with prog scan for £159. Good detail and depth of field make for an impressive picture, outshining many standalone DVD players at this price.

The kit deals with motion-tracking with effortless ease, but it's not the last word in black definition and colours are a little washed out – though this actually makes a pleasant change from the overblown colours many single-unit systems offer.

The five identical satellites and passive sub are all small in stature, but the sound isn't. Though the system can sound a little muffled, it's mostly impressive, giving a decent soundstage combined with fine sonic placement. It all integrates well, and the final effect has authority.

Overall, considering the price, this is a very enjoyable little system.

ALSO CONSIDER

Toshiba SD-44HK
£250 ★★★★★ January 2005
Splendid picture via component and it doesn't sound half bad, too

Panasonic SC-PM39
£250 ★★★★★ Awards 2004
This Award-winning system uses just two speakers for surround

M·CUBE

Furnish your home with sound

Watch the latest movie blockbusters and fill your living room with the rhythms of music using Mission's high performance, beautifully styled M-Cube Home Theatre System.

M-Cube's five softly rounded, cuboid satellites can be individually styled with the selection of fabric wraps supplied, and are acoustically matched to a compact 250W subwoofer, all specifically designed to blend seamlessly with your home furnishings.

mission

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Don't be a square... get Cubed

Mission M-Cube **£1000**

MULTICHANNEL SPEAKER PACKAGE

FOR

Ultra-stylish; delivers an amazing surround experience; clarity and expression in abundance

AGAINST

A pair of stands costs another £200

VERDICT

A sub/sat system that displays cute looks and killer ability – in our eyes it's going to be a sure-fire hit

★★★★★

TECH SPECS

SATELLITES:
ENCLOSURE Extruded aluminium and mineral-loaded polymer
RESPONSE 280Hz-30kHz
SENSITIVITY 85dB
POWER-HANDLING 30-150w
DIMENSIONS (HWD) 9 x 9 x 9cm
WEIGHT 1Kg
SUBWOOFER:
RESPONSE 28-300Hz
CROSSOVER FREQUENCY 250-300Hz
DIMENSIONS (HWD) 32 x 32 x 32cm
WEIGHT 16Kg

We can't wait to pitch Mission's M-Cubes up against the Mordaunt-Short Genie 5.1

THE KEF EGGS have been the template for top-quality sub/sat systems over the past couple of years. Last year's Award-winning Mordaunt-Short Genie uses a similar design. But manufacturers have been striving for a package capable of taking the sub/sat format to a new level, and now this is a real possibility thanks to the stunning Mission M-Cube system.

Subwoofer aside, Mission's distinctly diminutive system throws tradition straight out of the window. Conventional drivers have been given the heave-ho in favour of NXT flat-panels. The result is one of the best sounds we've heard from a system of this type.

Before we become caught up in a whirlwind of performance praise, first a few aesthetic observations: the cuboid speakers are as cute as they come. Available in either black or ivory, each unit is made from extruded aluminium, and the solid build is impressive. Even the way the system is packaged adds to the sense of occasion. Open the lid and you're greeted with a selection of differently coloured fabric wraps that can be used to dress the speakers to suit room decor.

Then there's the issue of size. At only 9cm cubed, the satellite speakers shouldn't encroach too far into that precious living room space. Brackets are provided as standard and dedicated stands are available – though they cost a hefty £200 per pair.

In terms of looks, the subwoofer is a mirror image of the satellites. It's a compact, closed cabinet design that uses two 12.5cm bass drivers and contains a 250 watt amplifier. It's fairly small at only 32cm in each dimension.

> "The proof is always in the pudding, and these little beauties taste particularly sweet"

Aesthetics and design aside, the proof is in the pudding, and these little beauties taste particularly sweet. The flat-panel satellites sound superb, combining effortlessly to produce an enveloping and seamless soundfield. Whether it's explosive effects panning between the front loudspeakers or swirling around the rear channels, the M-Cubes plug all the gaps. During the memorable forest battle in *Hero*, you feel like an intrinsic part of the leafy onslaught and spectacular swordplay. The system's even tonal balance and open delivery also ensures that there's no top-end aggression or low-end lag to blight the listening experience.

In more subtle scenes, the M-Cubes prove highly versatile, and manage to change character to deliver dialogue and sound effects in a natural, controlled manner. The more intimate and graceful moments in *Hero* are presented with all their atmospheric and emotional integrity intact.

The subwoofer pumps out its contribution with a fine amount of weight and authority. In *Alien Versus Predator*, the predators embark on a spring-clean of their temple and each alien beating is delivered with real solidity, power and slam.

With two-channel music, the M-Cubes do a fair job. This system copes with The Streets' *A Grand Don't Come For Free* in an involving manner.

Small, perfectly formed, and with excellent sound quality, the Mission M-Cubes are just the ticket to unobtrusive home cinema heaven.

ALSO CONSIDER

Mordaunt-Short Genie
£800 ★★★★½ Awards 2004
Award-winner compact speakers that have style and substance

Monitor Audio Radius
£1000 ★★★★★ Awards 2004
These tiny sats boast a big sound and the sub is no slouch, either

MISSION'S FLAT-PANEL SPEAKERS IMPRESS

The M-Cube's satellites are anything but conventional speakers. They are in fact Distributed Mode Loudspeakers (DMLs), using technology developed by NXT. Instead of incorporating two or three standard drive units, they consist of a single, flat, sound panel that's actively encourage to vibrate via an 'exciter.'

Its variables such as the positioning of these exciters, plus the size, shape, bending stiffness, surface density and internal damping of the panel material all affect the sound produced. The benefits of using such a composition are claimed – and after our tests we're not inclined to argue – to include a wider, non-directional spread of sound, improved integration across the frequency range – due to the absence of separate driver units – and the ability to design a slimmer and less imposing speaker. Mission has implemented this flat-panel technology extremely well.

IXOS
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Performance
XHS706W
Gamma Geometry™
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The patented IXOS® Gamma Geometry™ is the only geometry that delivers amazing sound quality and noise rejection. Don't just take our word for it though, we're not the only ones to think so...
"Soundwise the IXOS is both dynamic and spacious and will suit a wide range of affordable systems... does a great job - especially at the price."
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
05/98
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
★★★★★
WHAT HI-FI? Awards 1997 highly recommended
Home Entertainment EDITOR'S CHOICE
Want to improve the performance of your home entertainment system?
Simply upgrade to an IXOS® cable. You'll be amazed at the difference!
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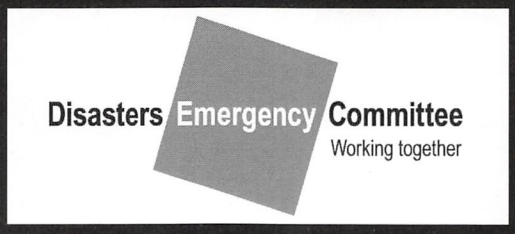
• COMPUTER HUBS & CABLES featuring FLEXIHEAD™ technology •
• HOME VIDEO CABLES • HOME THEATRE CABLES •
• HOME AUDIO CABLES & ACCESSORIES •
• 12v MOBILE AUDIO & VIDEO INSTALLATION COMPONENTS •



TSUNAMI EARTHQUAKE

Hundreds and thousands of people across a dozen countries have been affected by the major disaster and devastation caused by the earthquake in the Indian Ocean and the Tsunamis that followed.

Aid agencies are working to provide emergency relief and need your support. DEC members are ActionAid, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International UK, Christian Aid, Concern, Help the Aged, Merlin, Oxfam, Save the Children, Tearfund, World Vision.

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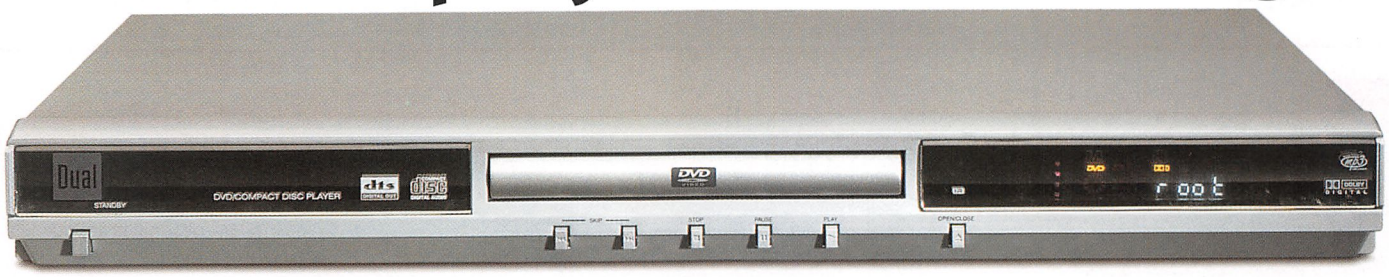
Dual DVD player doesn't delight



Dual DVD858 **£50**

DVD PLAYER

FOR
Price; wide availability

AGAINST
Below-par image; limited features, clunky transport and poorly designed remote handset

VERDICT
Don't be tempted: this Dual DVD player might be cheap, but that doesn't make it good value

★★

ONCE, A £50 DVD player was all but guaranteed a decent review. All it had to do was work, and the price did the rest. Not any more! There has been staggering price erosion recently, with the fallout being that incredibly good performance is now available for as little as £70 from Toshiba's SD-240E. So that's the kind of competition that the Dual DVD858, an exclusive to the Asda supermarket chain, is up against.

And it's not as if the DVD858 is a terrible machine: more that it doesn't excel in any respect. Picture performance through RGB Scart (there's no component video output) is fair for the money. Watch a film like the rather bleak sea-fest that is *Open Water*, and the player digs up a decent amount of detail. Contrast is good and the unit doesn't lose its composure during the storm scene. Sound is respectable, too, as there's a degree of authority and fairly strong dynamics.

However, compare the Dual to the class-leaders and its shortcomings are thrown into sharp relief. It suffers from a hefty dose of picture grain and can't deliver colour with anything like the naturalness or subtlety that other players can produce. Movement isn't handled well, either, so many of the fight and web-slinging scenes from *Spider-Man 2* disappoint.

The bad news doesn't stop there: the DVD858's transport is clunky, and the remote handset is one of the least intuitive we've come across in a long time. Add it all up and the result is a player that isn't very good, even taking the low cost into consideration. Shop around and you'll find the far-superior SD-240E at a very similar price.

The competition is too strong for the Dual, which doesn't excel in any area

ALSO CONSIDER

Toshiba SD-240E
£70 ★★★★★ August 2004
Can be found for considerably less than £70 – a fabulous unit

Toshiba SD-340E
£90 ★★★★★ November 2004
It's even better than the SD-240E, and another bargain from Toshiba

Receiver has plenty of punch

Onkyo TX-SR702E **£700**

MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER

FOR
Excellent specification; mightily impressive build quality; dynamic and forceful presentation; usable remote

AGAINST
Lacks the subtlety or insight of the best

VERDICT
Well equipped and ergonomically flawless, this is just the ticket for those who like it loud all the time

★★★★

ONKYO'S TX-SR702E is a very well equipped and highly specified device. THX-Select badging is to the fore, and there are seven channels of amplification, two of which can be diverted for a 'zone 2' set-up. There's upconversion from composite and S-Video to component, and a claimed total power output of 900 watts. Add in an exhaustive suite of decoding and processing options, microphone-driven automatic speaker set-up, more inputs and outputs than any rational owner will use, and a finely logical remote control and you have a machine that is, on paper, able to hold its own in what's a nightmarishly competitive sector of the market.

The auto set-up is swift and efficient – though an additional 10 minutes spent with a sound-pressure meter allows some worthwhile fine-tuning. After a dozen hours or so of running-in, the TX-SR702E reveals a movie sound that's rich in authority, drive and clarity. It's a dynamic powerhouse, and will cheerfully transmit the grandest of action-movie set-pieces in unflustered style. In fact, it's about as subtle as a bull mastiff, giving its best when the soundtrack demands power and bombast. It's not a stranger to detail, but it does its most worthwhile work when the going gets rowdy. And in two-channel mode, while music is delivered with poise, the lack of subtlety is even more pronounced.

This Onkyo has considerable strengths, but it's not quite the master of all trades that others are.

Fully featured and with more connections than you can shake a stick at, the Onkyo is a heavyweight multichannel contender

ALSO CONSIDER

Denon AVR-2805
£700 ★★★★★ Awards 2004
Our best-in-class Award-winner: affordable high-end performance

Yamaha RX-V1500
£700 ★★★★★ December 2004
Choose your speakers carefully and you'll get a superb sound

What's new?

LATEST NEWS, PRODUCTS AND INSIDE INFO

HOT PICK MP3 PLAYER

Tiny 'Shuffle' is the smallest iPod yet

JUST WHEN YOU thought the iPod family couldn't get much bigger (or should that be smaller!), Apple has unveiled the iPod Shuffle. It's a tiny, pocket-friendly piece of kit around the same size as a pack of chewing gum.

The 512MB iPod Shuffle costs £69 and can hold around 120 songs, while the £99 1GB version can take 240 tunes. It uses skip-proof flash memory rather than the hard-drive storage of its larger iPod and iPod Mini siblings.

Should you be using iTunes software on a Mac or PC, the iPod Shuffle simply connects straight to a USB port and can automatically fill itself, selecting tunes at random from either your whole music library or specific playlists. Tracks can be played in order or shuffled as you choose.

Battery life should be good for around 12 hours of playback, while a long list of accessories includes a sport case, armband holder and external battery pack.

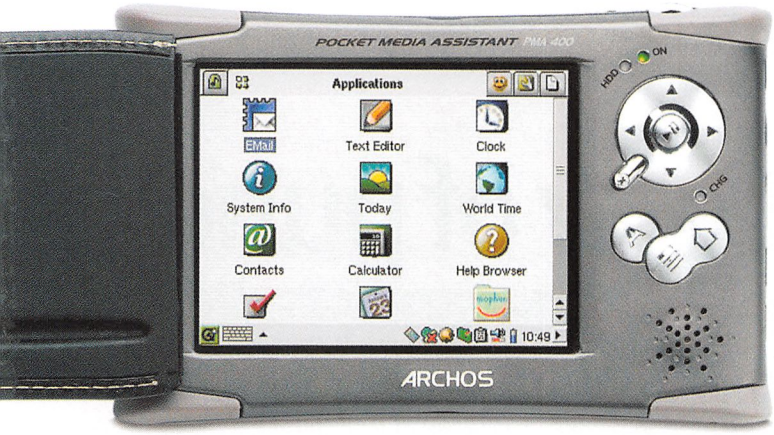
We'll be testing the iPod Shuffle in the next issue, out 10th February.

Acoustic Solutions' jukebox delivers 40GB of tunes to your hi-fi

The £200 SP150 is Acoustic Solutions' new jukebox. The system has a 40GB internal hard disk that the company claims can store up to 8000 songs depending on compression rate. The SP150 also plays standard CD discs.

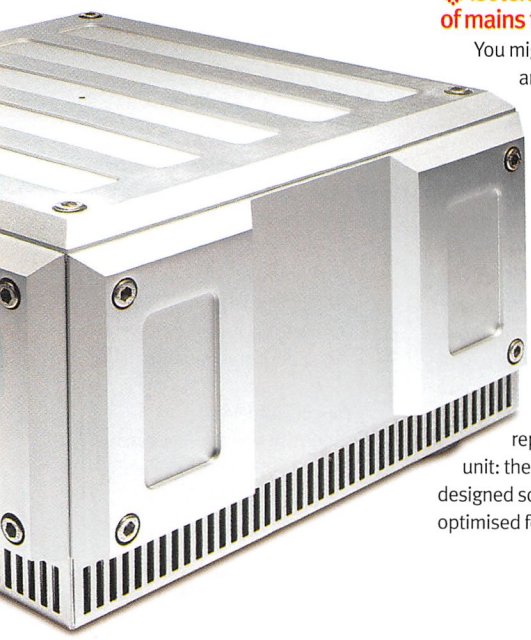
Tivoli's acclaimed PAL radio benefits from a chrome makeover

The Tivoli PAL radio is already available in 10 colours, but now you can add a chrome finish to that list. This £140 'bling' variation (a tenner more than the standard look) offers identical functionality, including FM and MW bands, together with 20 hours of use via the rechargeable battery.



The latest portable music and video solution from Archos

Archos' new Pocket Media Assistant, the PMA400 (£550) is a brand-new portable video recorder/player. It's a feature-packed piece of kit, which can record video directly from a TV, VCR or satellite receiver via its AV input, TV cradle or the optional AV travel kit. The 30GB hard disk stores up to 120 hours of TV or 60 full-length movies in MPEG-4 SP format.The PMA400 also plays MP3, WMA WAV music files and can store around 6500 songs.



Isotek expands its range of mains filtration hardware

You might think that mains filters are more hype than hi-fi, but they can make a major difference to sound quality. This new Titan mains filter (£1425) from Isotek has been designed with larger power amplifiers in mind. It has two high-grade mains outputs and the capacity to hook up an additional six units via the optional Multi-Link accessory.

Isotek has also unveiled a replacement for its Substation unit: the £1400 Nova has been designed so all available sockets are optimised for source components.

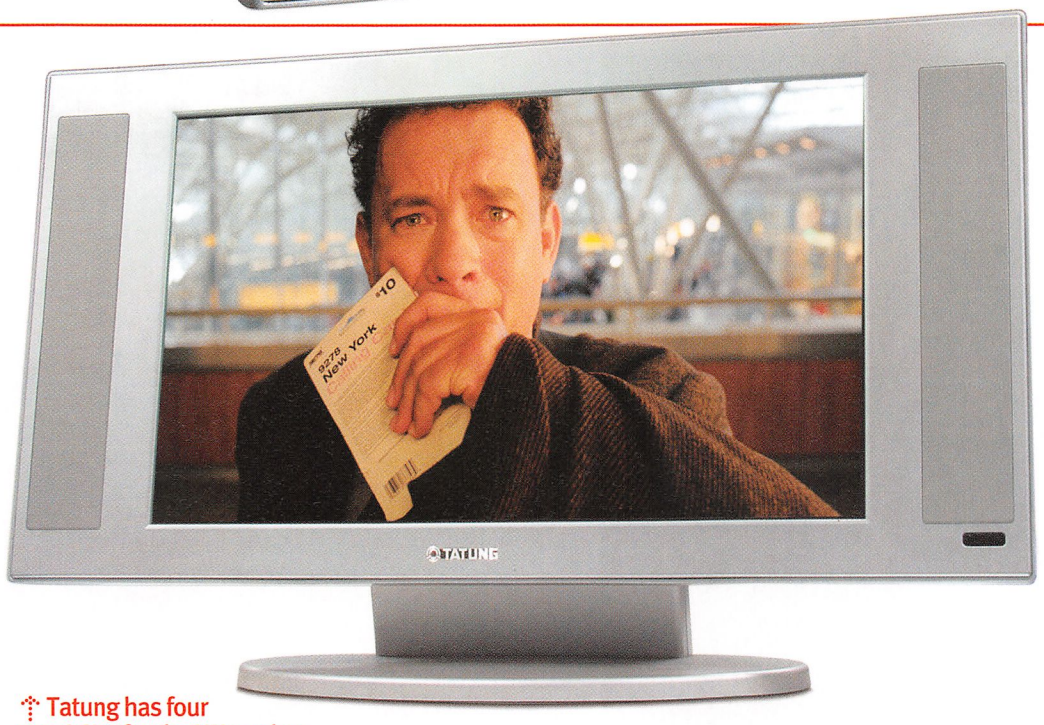
Toshiba covers its MP3 bases with its three Gigabeat players

Destined to hit UK shores this summer is Toshiba's Gigabeat digital audio player. It's available in 5GB, 20GB or 40GB capacities, which will handle around 1200, 5000 and 10,000 tracks respectively. The units come complete with recharging stand (excluding the 5GB model) and in a variety of colours. There are even plans afoot for a number of limited edition designs.

You can choose from no fewer than 28 different EQ presets, depending on your musical taste, while tracks can be added painlessly via the USB 2.0 connection. Toshiba claims battery life of up to 11 hours.

DEAL OF THE MONTH!

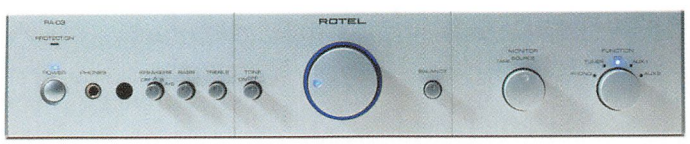
From 1st February InFocus has slashed the price of its Award-winning projector, the ScreenPlay 4805. Already a favourite of ours at its former price of £1300, the ScreenPlay's stunning picture quality is now available for a list price of £1000, and with a bit of hard bargaining you might do even better than that. It's a steal!



Tatung has four new LCDs for the UK market

Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Tatung has launched four new LCD TVs for public consumption. The new 23in, 27in, 30in (picture above) and 32in models are priced from £745 to £1408.

All the units feature a PC input for use as a computer monitor, as well as two Scart sockets, plus composite and S-Video inputs. Thanks to their 'super-fast' response time, Tatung claims it has overcome the problems of 'ghosting', which can affect LCD TVs.



Rotel adds a mid-priced integrated amp to its stable

Rotel's range of hi-fi components just gained a new addition: the £500 RA-03 claims to build on the qualities of one of our old favourites, the RA-02. The new model offers 70 watts per channel and a moving-magnet phono stage. The RA-03 is available in either silver or black, and comes with a remote control. Expect a thorough *First Test* soon in WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION.

KEF launches new multichannel home cinema speaker package

KEF has embarked on its latest home cinema excursion in the shape of the KHT6000 ACE. The system consists of a HTC6001 centre-channel (£250) and HTS6001 satellites (£250 each), together with optional dedicated stands (£100 each). The silver finish is designed to complement the latest-generation of interior–design friendly flatscreen TVs. The system incorporates Acoustic Compliance Enhancement technology (ACE), claimed to reduce cabinet resonance for improved realism.

IF YOU ONLY DO FIVE THINGS THIS MONTH...

GET SOME *ULTIMATE* INSIGHT

March 9th marks the launch date of the latest instalment of the WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION 'ULTIMATE GUIDE' series. Expect comprehensive coverage of all things hi-fi and home cinema combined with invaluable buying advice and tips.

LOOK FOR LOGOS

All High-Definition ready products will soon be carrying this 'HD Ready' logo. Only displays that show this logo will be fully compatible with European High-Def broadcasts.

WATCH A DEER DVD

One of Disney's most traumatising films has finally made it on to DVD. The long-awaited release of *Bambi* is sure to reopen old wounds and reduce grown men and women alike to floods of tears.

GO FOR GOLD

Be sure to check out *www.jensofsweden.com* and this stunning Jens Excentrique gold-plated MP3 player. A snip at $1100, it has 1GB capacity, integrated FM radio and comes complete with Shure E2c headphones.

FIND THE CREAM AT BRISTOL

The world's greatest manufacturers of home entertainment products are preparing to assemble at the annual extravaganza of new technology that is the Bristol show. Turn over the page for all the latest news in our four-page preview...

WORTH A LOOK

www.hd-1.tv
www.1080.org.uk

Keep up to date with developments in the world of European High Definition TV. HD-1's FAQ section provides a useful explanation of how HDTV works and what it means for the consumer. The *1080.org.uk* site has more High-Def news.

Big in 2005

THE YEAR'S HOT HARDWARE, REVEALED AT CES

iPod integration is hottest hi-fi trend

APPLE MIGHT NOT have been at CES, but its iPod's influence was everywhere – most notably in a range of products designed to integrate the MP3 player (and computer-based collections) into existing hi-fi systems.

Focal's iCub (left) looks and acts like the company's new Cub2 subwoofer, but also includes everything you need to play back digital music files – either from a connected iPod or from its integrated 60GB of storage. It will be available later this month, priced €500.

Fellow speaker specialist Monitor Audio will launch a range of products under its new trademarked iFi brand later in 2005 – look for a sneak preview at the Bristol Show this month.

Both Cambridge Audio and Arcam launched CD player/hard-drive recorders that can wirelessly hook up to your PC or Mac's online offerings. Cambridge's Azur 640H, including 160GB of music storage, will cost £500 and is due in April. Arcam's £2500 FMJ-MS250 has a 250GB drive – enough for 400 CDs stored in uncompressed format, or thousands of MP3 files.

On the portable side, Altec Lansing's new iM4 speaker system (below) claims to offer much more bass than earlier versions, for around £130.

Projector prices to fall while choice and quality increases

Projectors aim to go mainstream in 2005, with models launched to suit every pocket – almost literally in the case of Mitsubishi's DLP Pocket Projector, which measures just 12 x 5 x 10cm and weighs 400g. To add to its portability, it can run on battery power for a film-friendly 2.5 hours. Expect it later this year; US cost is $600.

Another new form factor was the projector-plus-DVD player combo, led by Optoma's DV-10 (see left), a £1000 DLP design optimised for easy use in small rooms. It'll be here later this year, along with HP's similar ep9010 Instant Cinema, which will cost around £1500.

Prepare for entry-level DLP designs – with 480p resolution – to hit price points well below the £1000 mark in 2005, while higher-resolution 576p models are also creeping below £2000.

Meanwhile, native high-definition, 720p projectors are becoming available under $10,000. Notable CES debuts included Sharp's imminent $4500 XV-Z2000 and BenQ's PE7700, which will become the cheapest HD projector around when it launches in March for $3299.

Keep your eyes open for brighter, sharper screens

Among some truly enormous flat TVs – Samsung showed a 102in plasma – were some new screens more likely to make it to the more modest UK market.

For example, Samsung was also one of several firms to add LED backlighting to its range of LCD flatscreens. LED backlighting promises better colour performance and contrast levels, as well as reduced power consumption.

Meanwhile, both JVC and Panasonic added HDMI direct-digital connectivity among a host of other upgrades to their LCD and plasma line-ups. Also promising higher-resolution sets was LG, whose other releases include LCD TVs with a built-in DVD player and plasmas incorporating hard-disk recorders.

2005 International CES

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

The International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) takes over Las Vegas every January. This year's event was the biggest yet: more than 140,000 visitors from 115 countries saw the launch of thousands of new home entertainment products from over 2500 exhibitors . Here are some of the highlights...

Linn's launch competes with the view from the Bellagio

Serious speakers with a stylish twist

Linn's latest launch is the Komponent range, a mix-and-match 'lifestyle' line-up with floorstanding, compact and surround-channel speakers plus a subwoofer. All models use Linn's 2-K driver array, developed from the high-end technology used in its flagship designs. No pricing or availability news yet.

Monster's THX Select range has a choice of six models

A more heavyweight newcomer is Monster's six-speaker THX Select Certified range . It includes tower, compact and dipole designs that can be configured in 24 different surround sound packages, priced from $2500. It's due in the UK later this year.

Focal, meanwhile, launched the Profile 900 range, which will replace its existing Electra line-up over the next six months. Based on technology from Focal's flagship Utopia speakers, the Profile 900s include a range of surround package options, priced from just €200 for the centre and rear speakers.

Finally, Jamo confirmed a February release and pricing from £399 for its A7 slimline surround speakers, with a similar schedule for its from-£99 E6 range.

High-end hi-fi is alive and well

The world of hi-fi set up home in the Alexis Resort for CES. Arcam unveiled its fantastic new Solo (pp6-7), while Epos demonstrated its dinky £399 ELS 303 floorstanders. Creek Audio paraded its new look CD53 mk2 CD player and 5350SE mk2 integrated amplifier. The kit will cost £1200 and £1100 respectively.

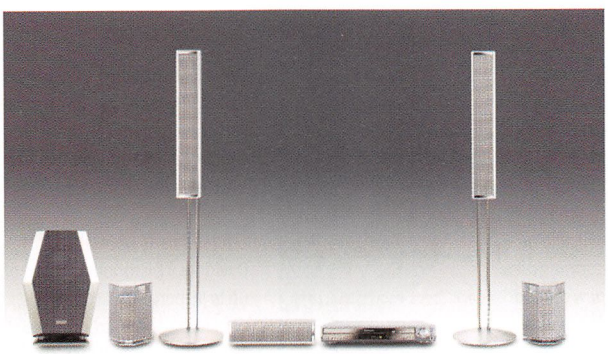
Acoustic Energy presented an on-wall speaker for the Aelite series and Sonneteer debuted its Bard range of wireless uncompressed multiroom music solutions. Italian maestro Unison Research exhibited its latest gorgeous valve amps, while Revolver teamed up with Nightingale to demonstrate its AVF super-slim floorstanders.

Back in the main hall, Krell revealed its stunning new Evolution series (pictured) – but with the pre/power amp combination costing $75,000 we can only hope for a collapse in the value of the dollar...

Wireless home cinema and more from Panasonic

Panasonic has packed a host of technologies into its latest home cinema in a box system. The SC-HT830V (below) includes a five-disc DVD/CD changer, plus a VCR, active subwoofer, adjustable floorstanding front speakers and wireless-ready rears. It's launched in the US in April, priced $500, with the wireless upgrade kit costing a further $200 – look for a UK release in the summer.

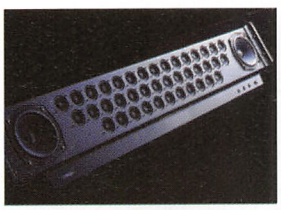
Panasonic will also add larger hard-drives and greater disc compatibility to its DVD recorders (above), while BenQ's new DE350 DVD recorder will be available with up to a 400GB hard drive, plus possible wi-fi support for piping programmes around your home.



MORE SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

YAMAHA WINS BEST OF SHOW

Yamaha's YSP-1 Digital Sound Projector claims to offer effective surround sound from a single, slimline unit designed to sit under your TV or projector screen. The YSP-1 houses no less than 42 digital ampl, 40



full-range drivers and two woofers. It'll be available later this month, priced £800.

SENNHEISER'S 2005 'PHONES

Updates to Sennheiser's headphone range include two extra noise-cancelling options. The £80 PXC-150 and £130 PXC-300 will sit either side of the PXC-250 folding design – a five-star winner at £90.

MONSTER'S FURNITURE FIX

Is it a Tardis? No, its a combined kit-rack and disc storage solution from Monster's new M-Design range of hi-fi and home

cinema furniture, due in June. Other options include a flat-screen-concealing mirror system – complete with speakers.

NXT GOES FLAT OUT FOR SOUND

NXT's flat-panel speaker technology was shown in yet more new incarnations, including a 50in rear-projection TV where the entire screen functioned as the centre speaker in a surround set-up. Expect real-life implementations during 2005.

SONY'S GIANT JUKEBOX

No news yet on whether Sony's amazing DVP-CX995V audio/video jukebox – which holds up to 400 DVD or SACD discs – will make it to the UK. We hope so!

The Bristol Show

SOUND & VISION – 25-27 FEBRUARY – MARRIOTT HOTEL

SOUND & VISION THE BRISTOL SHOW

Arcam, Cyrus, Denon, and the other big guns are charging their powder to make Bristol the most explosive home entertainment show this year

The Concept L 42 (left) is Loewe's latest foray into the UK plasma market; (below-left) the Arcam Solo; (below) Boston Acoustics' DSi495 ceiling speaker

Acoustic Energy

Acoustic Energy will be launching its new on-wall speaker system, including a new high-performance 'all-in-one' single left/centre/right channel. The superb Aelite 5.1 system and the sensational AE1 MkIII speaker will also be on display.

Activ Distribution

Activ Distribution is exhibiting the new Isotek Nova mains conditioner, plus Inca Design's integrated amplifier, the 'Talon', together with the acclaimed Katana CD player.

Apollo

Apollo is showing its range of supports, including the impressive A4 speaker stand.

Arcam

Arcam has chosen Bristol for its first public showing of two exciting new products: the Solo (see pp6-7 for our exclusive review) and the new FMJ MS250 hard drive server.

Bandridge

Bandridge will show the full ProfiGold range of cables and interconnects, including new HDMI and DVI-D models. A new range of Suarez furniture will also be on display, suitable for plasma and LCD screens.

Black Rhodium

Black Rhodium's high-performance, cryogenically treated cables will be on show, including the new Polar Emperor DCT loudspeaker cable.

Boston Acoustics

Boston Acoustics is using Bristol for its UK launch of a brand-new on-wall speaker system. The Bravo II will make its debut, and the company will also be showing off a new outdoor speaker range – the Voyager.

Creek

Creek will be releasing the new 53 Mk2 series at this year's show. The range includes the CD53 Mk2 CD player, 5350SE Mk2 integrated amplifier, and A53 Mk2 power amplifier. Creek will also be releasing a new integrated amplifier, the A50iR SE.

CSE

CSE will be demonstrating two high-performance systems at the show. The Infocus ScreenPlay 5700 projector will complement Lexicon's RV-8 home cinema receiver and Revel's Performa speakers in a 5.1 channel configuration. There'll also be a budget home-cinema solution on show.

Cyrus

Cyrus launches the latest new addition to its formidable line-up of home music-server components in the way of the Linkserver Solo and multiroom maestro, the Linkserver Quattro.

David Neal Distribution

David Neal Distribution will be offering up to 50 percent discount on leading brand names, and showing off its newest range of Modular equipment racks.

Denon

Denon is showing off its new AVC-A1XV flagship home cinema amplifier and the DVD-A1XV DVD player ready and primed for the Bristol Show. Also on display will be the PMA SA1 integrated stereo amplifier and the DCD-SA1 CD/SACD player.

Diverse Vinyl

Diverse Vinyl returns in its regular spot (by the bar!) offering its usual eclectic range of brand-new LP titles and special show bargains – well worth checking out.

Eclipse

Eclipse is exhibiting the latest addition to the TD speaker series, the TD712z.

Elac

Elac is launching its new 600 series of high-end loudspeakers, together with the all-new 50 series.

Exposure

Exposure will be previewing the new Classic 35 integrated amplifier, effectively a replacement for the old 25 model. You'll also find the excellent new 2010S CD player, reviewed on p9 of this issue.

Cyrus will be demonstrating its Linkserver products (far-left), while Wilson Benesch's new sub, the Precision (middle), is sure to make quite an impression, alongside SIM2's latest projector, the HT300E (right)

Jamo is showing off its Concert series of home cinema separates, including its AVR-693 receiver

Fujitsu

Fujitsu is launching the next generation of its Plasmavision screens at the Bristol Show. The new 40 series features AVM II, an upgraded version of Fujitsu's digital video processing technology.

Jamo

Jamo will be showing off its latest E7 series loudspeakers and the Concert series of home cinema separates, comprising 6.1 and 7.1 channel receivers, plus a new DivX-compatible DVD player.

KEF

KEF has chosen the 2005 Bristol Show to show off its new KHT 6000 ACE multichannel loudspeaker system.

Loewe

Loewe shows off its latest TV, the Spheros R37 Masterpiece, along with the Xelos family of flat-panels, and the new Concept L 42in plasma. It'll also showcase no fewer than four new product lines: the Art, Life, Classic and Reference ranges.

M&G Audio

M&G Audio demonstrates its range of 11 desktop DAB/FM radios, each of which features an integrated SD/MMC card reader for recording and replaying FM and DAB radio. There are three new models: the Rondo, Toccata and the bespoke-made Rhapsody.

The Rhapsody is one of M&G's new desktop DAB/FM radios

Meridian

Meridian is demonstrating a surround system based around the company's Reference Series components, including the 800 Optical Disk Player, 861 Surround Processor, DSP8000 digital loudspeakers, plus the new compact DSP5200s.

Michell Engineering

Turntable specialist Michell Engineering is exhibiting the Gyro SE, along with the highly acclaimed Tecnoarm and HR power supply. Also on display will be the TecnoDec and Orbe record decks.

MJ Acoustics

MJ Acoustics' highlight will be its new range: the Subliminals. It's a full range of stereo monitors that claim to produce an audiophile grade multichannel system.

Morphy Richards

Morphy Richards has chosen the Bristol Show to launch its new range of DAB digital radios, including the EPG DAB radio, a DAB micro system, portable DAB boom-box, and a new MP3 player.

NAD

NAD's continues to expand its home cinema technology range with the release of its new Network Receiver, the NetCap. The company will also launch the L53, a combined CD/DVD player and receiver.

Naim Audio

Naim Audio will be demonstrating its new multichannel speaker package in a system using its DVD5 DVD player, AV2 processor, NAP150X and NAP175X amplifiers.

Nbien

Nbien is showing off its NX series speakers at the show, as well as the new NHT Xd DSP-powered speaker system.

Niko

Niko will have the Nikobus home automation system on show in Bristol, as well as various other remote control and home installation products.

Optoma

Optoma is exhibiting the new range of ThemeScene products, combining the latest in DLP technology with its own expertise in projectors and TVs. The H30A projector is just one new product that'll be making an appearance.

Owl Video Systems

Owl Video Systems will be displaying its most popular home cinema projectors, the award-winning Sanyo Z3 and the Mitsubishi HC900 and HC2000.

Path

Path will show its exclusively distributed range of Omnimount plasma and LCD television wall-mount solutions, along with its MODA furniture, and not to mention a selection of Award-winning Ixos cables.

Pioneer

Pioneer will be showcasing the latest additions to its impressive range of new plasma televisions, DVD recorders, and digital home cinema systems.

PMC

PMC will be showing its Bryston C series amp range, including the B-100 integrated amp, available with state-of-the-art DA input. The rest of the ATL range will also be present.

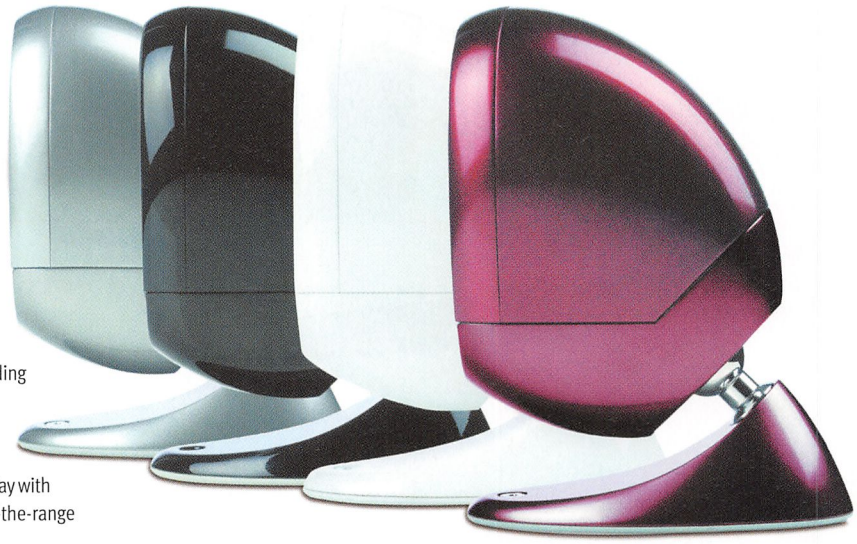
Naim Audio will be showing off its latest home cinema products, including DVD player, processor, amps and speakers

ProAc

ProAc will be demonstrating two new floorstanding loudspeakers, the ProAc Studio 130 and Studio 140.

Pure Digital

Pure Digital will be showing off its range of innovative, Award-winning products. These include the well-received Bug DAB digital radio and the Legato micro system. Pure Digital's newest products include a handheld DAB digital radio and a DAB digital radio alarm clock.



These intriguing objects are the satellite speakers from Tannoy's Arena package

QED
QED will be showing a complete range of Q-wire digital cables – including HDMI, DVI and USB options. Also new are its high-performance mains conditioning/ distribution units and double-screened Qonduit mains cables.

RGB Smarthome
RGB Smarthome, the custom installation division of RGB communications, will be showing off its Action! home cinema projectors from Projectiondesign.

Quadraspire
Quadraspire celebrates its 10th anniversary at the Bristol show this year. The company will be running demonstrations of the Q4 Reference table as well as the Music Works block and Hot Tubes amplifier.

Rega
Rega will be showing off four new speaker models, while also trying its hardest to convince you that the best turntables aren't always the most expensive.

REL
REL is set to give public auditions of its Stampede, Strata 5 and new Storm 5. The new range of subwoofers will also have remote controls for ease of use and set-up.

Resolution Loudspeakers
Resolution Loudspeakers unveils its self-titled floorstanders at the show. It claims these to be the 'holy-grail' sought by both audiophiles and purists.

Sennheiser
Headphone manufacturer Sennheiser will be giving the first public demonstration of its new noise-reduction headphones, the PXC-300 NoiseGuard Advance – along with the rest of its acclaimed range of portable and open and closed-backed cans.

Sharp
Sharp will be showing the cream of its Titanium range of LCD TVs, the 45in Aquos. Also, its new DVD recorder, DAB radio and home cinema projectors will be on display.

SIM2
Sim 2 is showing a wide range of exciting new products, including the HT300E, the HT300E-LINK and the HT500E-LINK projectors. Also look out for the new Domino 55M DLP display with HDMI input, and SIM2's top-of-the-range 40in LCD television.

Sony
Sony will be showing its High-Definition compatible plasma and LCD displays, along with a select range of hi-fi and home cinema components, including its Award-winning DAB tuner and complete range of DVD recorders. A dedicated two-channel demonstration room will host the premier of the DR series, 32-bit S-Master Pro amplifier and SACD player.

Soundstyle
Soundstyle brings products from both Sound Organisation and Arca under one roof. The main attractions are the world premier of the Arca Nuevo Furniture range, the Soundstyle Modular range and Sound Organisation Z Series.

Spendor
In 2005, Spendor is showing its S series of loudspeakers featuring the company's latest 'e' generation of drive units.

Stands Unique
Stands Unique are showing the new Levitate freestanding Plasma Support and the Pure Carbon Fibre Support range. UVEM will be joining Stands Unique again, demonstrating its digital media servers for an upgradeable, no-compromise system.

Stil-Stands
Glarmorgan-based support manufacturer Stil-Stands will show off its new products.

Tannoy
Tannoy's radical new home-cinema system, Arena will be on prominent display, with its first public demonstrations.

TEAC
TEAC unveil its new range of 'Reference' equipment including the Reference CR-250 DAB/CD designed to partner its new TEAC L-SH250 speakers. The company will also showcase the Reference 300 Mk2 range, including a new amplifier and CD player.

The Chord Company
The Chord Company will be exhibiting its full range of interconnects and speaker cables, including the Award-winning Chord Carnival Silver Plus. Look out for the all new iChord – a brilliant way to connect your iPod to your main system.

Titan Loudspeakers
Titan will be demonstrating its full line-up of subwoofers, including the Pluto, Mercury, and top-of-the range Jupiter models. Key new products include the Titan 409 Class D stereo amplifier and FS/2 (S) studio playback monitor floorstanders.

Totem Acoustic
Totem Acoustic will be showing off its new Einstein amplifier and CD player.

True Colours Industries
True Colours will undertake comparative cable demonstrations against other leading manufacturers featuring speaker cables, mains leads and interconnects.

Vieta
Vieta launches its TFT-270 LCD television at Bristol, as well as demonstrating its in-car Multi Media equipment.

Vivante
Vivante will have a huge range of quality vinyl, plus SACD, HDCD, CD, DVD-A, DTS and XRCD titles on show.

Wilson Benesch
Wilson Benesch has the world launch of its "Precision Bass" Infrasonic Generator.

Yamaha
Yamaha will be revealing the DVD-S2500 DVD-A/SACD player along with the impressive-looking YSP-1 Digital Sound Projector home cinema speaker package.

Sharp's will be showing its newest range of LCD televisions, the Titanium series

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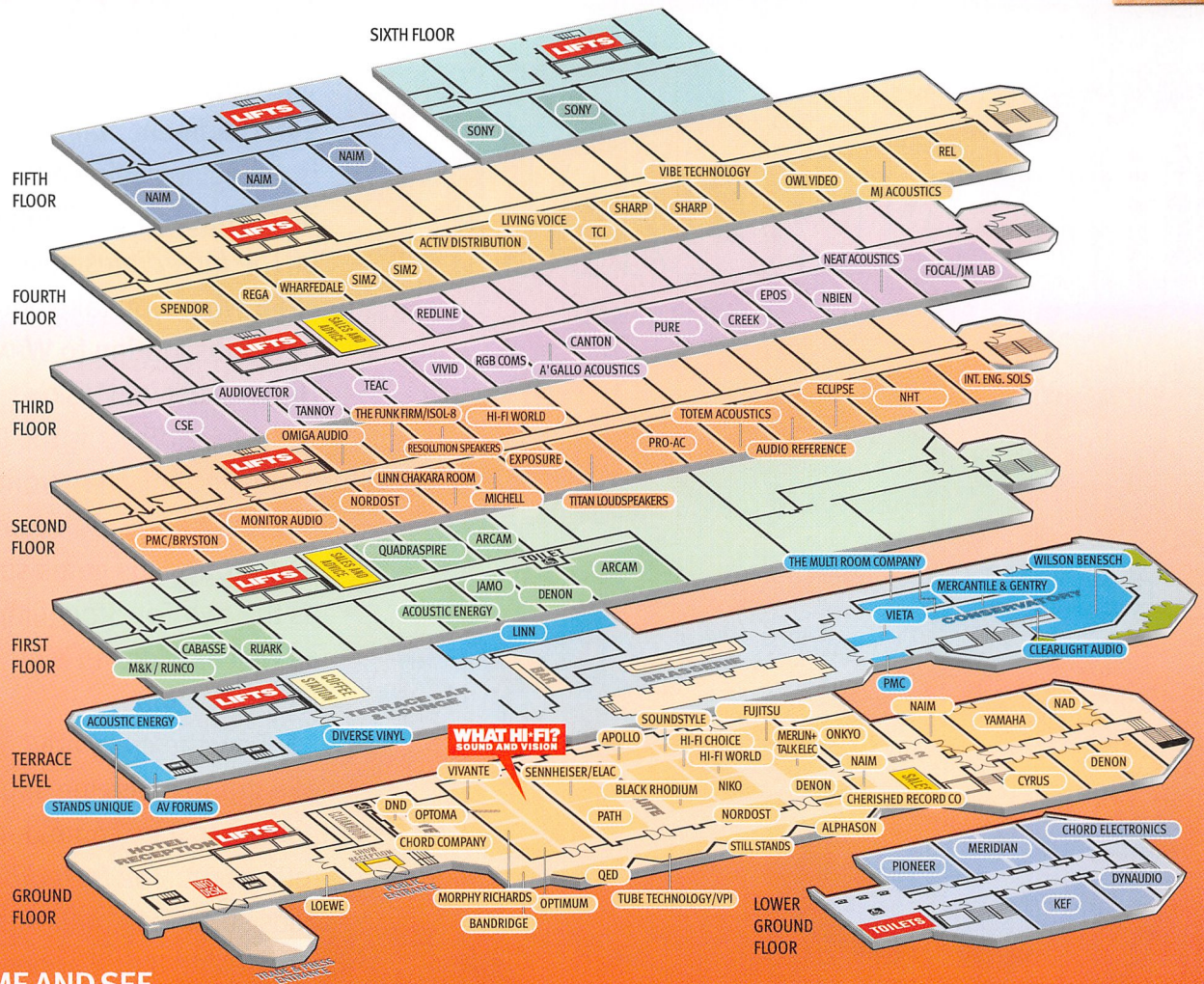

COME AND SEE

Acoustic Energy
Action Projectors
Alphason Designs
AMX
Anthony Gallo Acoustics
Apollo
Arca
Arcam
Ariston
Artsound
Audiophile Base
Audionet
Audiovector
Atlantic Technology
Bandridge
Black Rhodium
Boston Acoustics
Bryston
B-Tech
Cabasse
Canton
Case Logic
Cherished Record Company
Chord Electronics
Clearaudio
Clearlight Audio
Creek
Cyrus
Da-Lite
Denon
Diverse Vinyl
Dynaudio
Eclipse TD
Elac
Epos
Exposure
FDM Furniture
Flying Mole
Focal-JMlab
Fujitsu
Furutech
Future Glass
Goldring
Grado
Harmony
HI-FI CHOICE
HI-FI WORLD
HOME CINEMA magazine
Inca Designs
InFocus
Isotek
Ixos
Jamo
KEF
Klegg Audio
Kondo
Lamm
Lexicon
Linn
Living Voice
Loewe
Lutron
M&G Audio
Meridian
Merlin Cables
Metronome Technologie
MJ Acoustics
Michell Engineering
Middle Atlantic Products
Miller & Kreisel
Milty
Mitsubishi Projectors
Monitor Audio
Moon
Morphy Richards
Musicworks
NAD
Naim
Nbien
NEC Projectors
NHT
Niko
Nordost
O'Heocha Design
Omnimount
Onkyo
Optimum
Perfect Sound
Philips ipronto
Philosophy
Pioneer
PMC
Primare
ProAc
ProfiGold
PSB
PURE
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Purist Audio
QED
Quad
Quadraspire
Rega
Renaissance
REL
Resolution
Ruark
Runco
Russound
Sanyo Projectors
Sennheiser
Scion
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Storex
STUFF magazine
Talk Electronics
Tannoy
Target
Teac
Techlink
The Chord Company
The Multi Room Company
Titan Loudspeakers
ThemeScene
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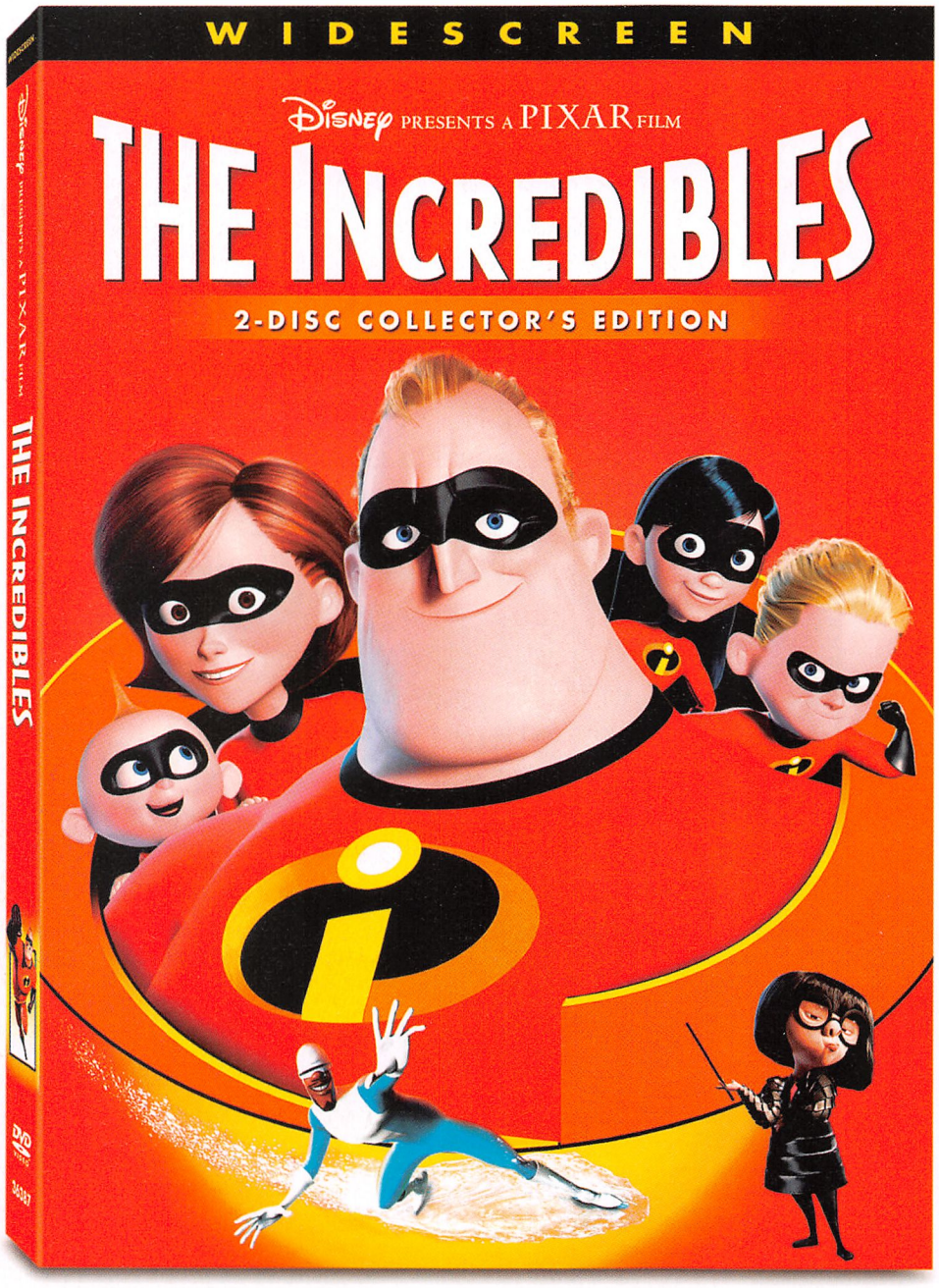

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REC OUT
ZONE 2
LEVEL
POWER
PURE AUDIO
PHONES
SETUP MIC
TONE
STEREO
MULTI CH
DVD
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VIDEO 2
VIDEO 3
VIDEO 4
VCR 1
VCR 2
RDS
ZONE 2
STANDBY
REC OUT
DVD
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Supertest

NO.345 ONE-MAKE HOME CINEMA

Seeking out that system synergy

Does buying a matching DVD player and receiver give you a boost in performance as well as style?

What's new?

Of these pairings, only the Onkyo and Sony couples are entirely new to us. On top of that, the Sony receiver uses a newish idea – digital amplification allows a much tidier profile than that of competitors. Otherwise, Harman-Kardon's glitzy DVD31 is the other untested product here. The Pioneer combination is the only one that's been reviewed before – all the other products have been tested individually, so the question of system synergy is the important new variable.

What do you get for your money?

All these DVD players will function as CD players, too – some will also play DVD-Audio or SACD multichannel music discs, or both. You're also buying a receiver – that's to say, an amplifier that incorporates a radio – that will, with the exception of the Sony device, serve as amplification for as many audio and video components as you might realistically require.

Will it fit with your system?

These pairings are systems: all they require is a suitable surround sound speaker package. (For all solutions great and small, see the *Buyer's Guide*, from p99.) If you've a bunch of extra equipment you need to amplify, the Sony combination might not be ideal, but all the others should cope admirably. If you want to use a record player, you'll need an off-board phono stage.

What are we looking for?

In this instance, we're not only looking at individual items' performance (DVD players' format compatibility, picture and sound quality, receivers' decoding ability, sound quality and flexibility), but at the intangible cooperation and understanding between pairings. Two products rated highly on an individual basis might not gel as successfully as two slightly less well regarded items.

Our ratings explained

Though the individual components receive ratings, the headline rating is for the performance of the pairing. Five-star combos have the best picture and sound quality, build, format-compatibility and flexibility. Four-star set-ups don't quite scale the same heights, but are superior in areas that make them worth auditioning. Three stars indicates something a little more workaday, though in a test like this (with so many variables), they shouldn't be dismissed out of hand. Dismissing two- and one-star combinations is safer – they'll lack much or all of what we deem essential performance.

For verdicts on other DVD players and multichannel receivers, turn to our *Buyer's Guide* starting on p99 ···>

THE CONTENDERS

CAMBRIDGE AUDIO Azur 540D/540R £200/£250
Cambridge's Azur kit is some of our favourite budget hi-fi gear – so are the AV products as good?

DENON DVD-1910/AVR-1905 £230/£300
Recent home cinema equipment from Denon has impressed us loads, but is there the synergy?

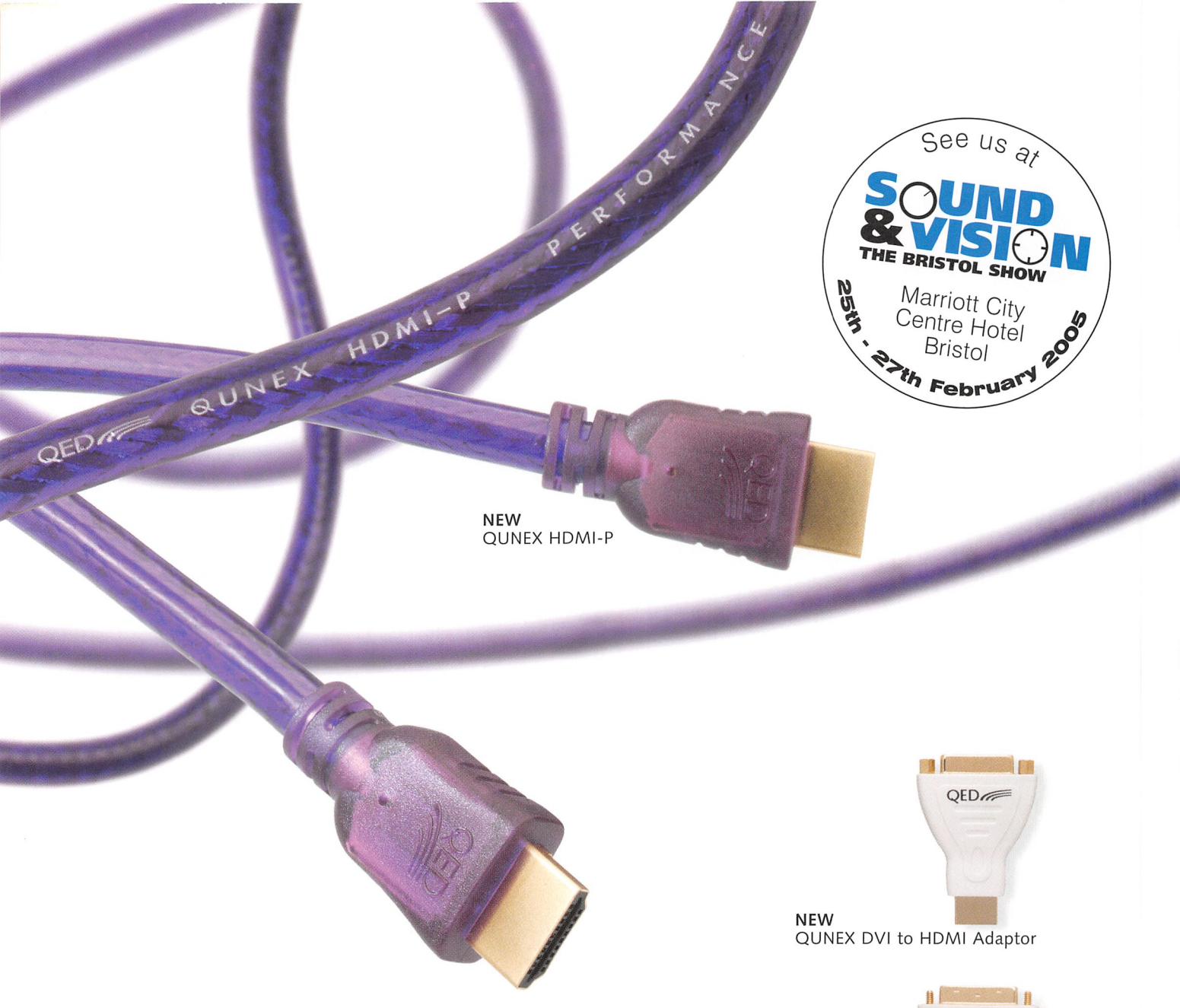
HARMAN-KARDON DVD31/AVR130 £400/£350
This DVD player is the most expensive of the bunch, so it should offer superior picture quality

ONKYO DV-SP502E/ TX-SR602E £300/£450
Not the cheapest pairing in the test, so the Onkyo kit must achieve superior performance to compete

PIONEER DV-575A/VSX-D814 £150/£300
The DVD player here is one of our favourites, while the receiver also promises much on paper

SONY DVP-NS955/ STR-DB900 £230/£400
You won't break your back shifting this receiver, with its digital amp making for those sleek lines

YAMAHA DVD-S550/RX-V650 £130/£460
Though they're not the closest match visually, we have high hopes for product synergy here



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QED

This Cambridge Audio pairing hits way above the weight of the individual two components

With a DVI-equipped DVD and a Product of the Year receiver we expected sparks to fly

Cambridge Audio system £450

AZUR 540D DVD PLAYER	★★★★☆	£200
AZUR 540R RECEIVER	★★★★☆	£250

FOR

Brawny, realistic 6.1 sound; colourful, detailed picture; easy to set up and use

AGAINST

Picture contrast and stability could be better; sounds too forceful at the limit

VERDICT

Despite lacking a few features, this combo is among the best in value for money terms – demands an audition

★★★★★

HERE, WE HAVE two worthwhile products that have received solid four-star reviews in the recent past. So, it must be a four-star pairing then? Well, not necessarily.

Our October 2004 review of Cambridge Audio's well sorted 540R receiver explained the virtues of its ebullient sonic signature, and in this company, that's all the more pronounced. But where we had previously whinged about relative lack of features (no video signal upconversion, mainly), the 540R looks unarguable value when stacked up against these rivals. This is a properly made 6.1 receiver that packs 80 watts RMS across each channel, includes Dolby Digital EX and DTS ES and comes bundled with by far the most elegant remote handset here.

The argument for the 540D DVD player is even more persuasive. Since last April's *First Test*, Cambridge has shaved a very useful £50 off the price, making the 540D much better value. Good-looking, decently specified and effective, the Cambridge is now a compulsory audition. But helpful as it is, it takes more than a price-cut to drag two four-star products up to the five-star level – it takes synergy, and that's what these Cambridge Audio devices have in spades.

Working in tandem, they turn in a performance that belies their total price. With the glorious *Hero* loaded in the DVD tray, pictures are smooth, detailed and lustrous. It's a devilishly testing movie, and the 540D can't supply the rock-solid stability of Pioneer's DV-575A, and isn't immune to some minor picture noise in the most difficult scenes, but it's nonetheless a capable performance – depth of field is especially impressive.

Sonically, the *Hero* soundtrack is delivered in taut and punchy style – effects-steering can be a touch jagged, but the detail, insight and sheer drive on offer render such minor complaints all but redundant. The soundstage is deep, wide and tall, and definition is first-rate.

When you consider the DVD-A performance, which is sprightly, attacking and well separated, it's obvious these two products work extremely well together – they share a common interest in the more brisk aspects of film and music.

The fact that this Cambridge pairing is yours for just £450 means it's difficult to marshal a coherent argument against it. It's not a rule you should apply to your household budget, but in this instance, two fours make five.

Denon system £530

DVD-1910 DVD PLAYER	★★★★☆	£230
AVR-1905 RECEIVER	★★★★★	£300

FOR

Receiver is simply the best around at the money; DVI-D pictures are top-class

AGAINST

Analogue pictures are average; DVD player isn't the quietest in operation

VERDICT

The receiver can't quite reflect enough of its glory on to the DVD player: as a combo, it falls just short

★★★★☆

OUR 2004 AWARDS issue was, of course, an essential and riveting read – but we'd be the first to concede that there was a certain predictability about Denon's phenomenal showing in the Multichannel Amps and Receivers category. Our Product of the Year, was this AVR-1905 – here, partnered here with the only DVI-equipped DVD player in the test. This must make the Denon combo the pre-test favourite.

The Denon AVR-1905 is still the same engaging and extraordinarily capable home cinema receiver we rhapsodised about in the Awards issue. It's well made, generously specified (composite-to-S-Video video upconversion is a bonus), and sounds plenty more expensive than it is. Effects-steering is prompt and assured, with none of the just-in-time breathlessness some rivals introduce.

Low-frequency stuff is taut and well-timed – in fact, timing is top-class across the frequency range, and the Denon keeps a close watch on the fine details even as it paints a big, broad sonic picture. If space allowed, we would extol its virtues further; suffice to say, it didn't fluke that Product of the Year Award.

When attached to a screen with the appropriate input, the DVD-1910 produces an excellent picture via its DVI output – that's exactly as it should be. Depth of field, detail retrieval and colour fidelity are especially impressive, while motion-tracking is rock-solid and stable.

Skin-tones are accomplished, too textures being beautifully three-dimensional. The overall picture is graceful, neutral and natural. If you own a suitably equipped display, you know where to spend your money.

If, however, you're one of the vast majority of people who doesn't have a screen with a digital picture input, you'll need to consider the analogue picture quality – and here the DVD-1910 falls off the pace.

Using the component outputs, compared to the less expensive Pioneer DV-575A, the DVD-1910 has an underwhelming picture: it introduces noticeable grain and glitter to complex scenes, while edges fray and colours flare. Dark scenes are especially compromised. That £230 price look high, especially as the lack of six-channel outputs means there's no multichannel music capability.

Pound for pound, this receiver is a superstar, but the DVD player only cuts it as a digital device. So as a pairing, they are slightly flawed.

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Cambridge Audio

The glittering array of cool-blue backlighting isn't enough to disguise the excessive price

Competent in many areas, we feel this isn't a pairing that's going to set the world on fire

Harman-Kardon system £750

DVD31 DVD PLAYER	★★☆☆☆	£400
AVR130 RECEIVER	★★★☆☆	£350

FOR

Plenty of drive; fine all-round picture performance; idiosyncratic lookers

AGAINST

Seem recklessly overpriced in the quality-per-quid stakes

VERDICT

Despite the receiver's paucity of spec, both boxes perform well – but the joint-highest price? No!

★★☆☆☆

IT SEEMS THAT Harman-Kardon is attempting to corner the market in cool-blue lighting. The most expensive pairing in this test is lit up like the Conservative Party's Christmas tree.

It's an ostentatious display, and made us apprehensive that the H-K combination would be all style and no substance. The relative poverty of the AVR130's specification (despite being one of the priciest here, there's no 6.1 surround sound) only adds to the initial feeling of disquiet.

Fire the AVR130 up, though, and there's plenty of substance to call on. It's blessed with a chunky, forthright sound, zealously transmitting the dynamic highlights of films such as *Hellboy*, and revelling in the tub-thumping sound, driving things forward remorselessly. Dialogue can become a little overcrowded and undemonstrative but, in terms of effects steering and placement, the AVR130 is right on the money.

The quieter and subtler moments of *Hero*, though, are rather flattened, with the H-K seemingly waiting for the next opportunity to show off its fundamentally punchy character.

The skinny DVD31 contributes a picture of smooth neutrality via component video outputs, and retrieves commendable amounts of fine detail. Depth of field, too, is a match for the best DVD players here, and the H-K also keeps admirable grip of fast-moving images. It wasn't the keenest to load and play DVD-Audio discs, at least some of the time, but that's a very minor gripe compared to all the things this DVD player does right.

Performance is emphatically not the issue where the DVD31's miserable star-rating is concerned. Instead, the biggest hurdle Harman-Kardon will have to overcome is the eyebrow-raising price it wishes to sell the device for. No matter that it's a well made, handsome and accomplished machine – Pioneer's DV-575A is every bit as proficient and well screwed together, yet costs much less than half the price.

The problem here isn't the slight lack of agility where the sound is concerned, or the bling of the fascia – it's that the performance just doesn't go anywhere near justifying the price. The H-K pairing look distinctive on the shelf, are passably well specified and, on paper, shape up to be very competitive. In practice, they struggle to offer credible value compared to the Cambridge Audio combo and are made to look very ordinary by team Yamaha.

Onkyo system £750

DV-SP502E DVD PLAYER	★★★☆☆	£300
TX-SR602E RECEIVER	★★★☆☆	£450

FOR

Unburstable build quality; fine picture detail and stability; smooth sound

AGAINST

Undemonstrative and unloveable, the Onkyo combo is a diverting also-ran

VERDICT

The receiver can't quite reflect enough of its glory on to the DVD player: as a pairing, it falls just short

★★★☆☆

FOLLOWING THE LEAD of the most recent Onkyo products, the TX-SR602E and DV-SP502E are indulgently constructed and feature a kind of Mr Incredible chin as a design 'feature'. They look distinctive and expensive (but then, in this context, they are expensive) and will stand out on the showroom floor. But all this counts for nothing, of course, if the performance doesn't cut it.

The TX-SR602E receiver is a bulky and imposing machine, but it's a doddle to set up. Like a few of these receivers, it's happy to calibrate itself to your room via a microphone-based procedure which, in terms of its effectiveness, falls somewhere between the Pioneer's slight proximity and the Yamaha's painstaking accuracy.

It's a fast and painless – two words, coincidentally, that could easily apply to the sound the receiver produces. It's doubtful the producers of *Hellboy* intended it to sound smooth, polite and undemonstrative, but that's exactly how the Onkyo transcribes it. There's enough detail retrieved, and precise effects-steering, but the receiver lacks dynamic reach and attack. Even the big set-piece brouhaha with the 100-year-old Nazis and Rasputin (you must see this film) is rendered insipidly, with low-frequency bombast hinted at, rather than explicitly relayed.

It's a not dissimilar story where the DVD player is concerned. The picture is stable, detailed and poised, with gratifyingly little picture noise when using the component video outputs, and the depth of field is a match for the best here – bear in mind, though, that the best here (the Pioneer) costs half the price of this Onkyo.

The colour palette lacks a little vibrancy and vitality, to an extent that can't be put down to understatement. The red and orange tones of *Hero*, so excruciating via the Sony DVD player, are muted and over-washed here. The DV-SP502E decodes multichannel music, both DVD-A and SACD, and while that's a useful feature, the receiver works its reverse magic and robs recordings of their dynamic reach and range. In addition, high frequencies are a little bright, which the toe-tapping timing can't compensate for. There's also an intrusive noise from the DVD player when it changes chapters.

Those of a nervous disposition will be thankful for the receiver's over-stated refinement, but everyone else will realise there's better sound, and equally good picture performance, to be had elsewhere, and for less money.

Pioneer's universal disc player is a steal at £150, yet the receiver can't match its talent

Hard, uncompromising receiver sound and overblown DVD colours don't really impress

Pioneer system £450

DV-575A DVD PLAYER	★★★★★	£150
VSX-D814 RECEIVER	★★★★☆	£300

FOR

Universal DVD player works a treat; ease of receiver set-up; upfront sound

AGAINST

The receiver can sound tiresomely forward; steering can be approximate

VERDICT

All the DVD player's good work is undone by an over-confident, under-achieving receiver

★★★★☆

IN COMMON WITH several firms, Pioneer has had much more success with its DVD players than with its receivers. This pairing is a case in point: the VSX-D814 receiver is a capable, though hardly class-leading, device. The DV-575A, on the other hand, proudly continues Pioneer's record of turning out excellent DVD players at startlingly low prices.

The VSX-D814 comes across as a confused design. The crowded fascia and hopelessly overburdened remote control point to a set-up procedure from hell, but the inclusion of a plug-in microphone that automatically adjusts speaker size, delay, distance and level makes short, if not absolutely accurate, work of the set-up.

And the split personality extends to the sound: while lacking nothing in authority, scale or drive, the Pioneer is short on finesse and shorter still on precision. Effects are flung from speaker to speaker with admirable speed but a lamentable lack of refinement, imbuing even less demonstrative scenes in *Hero* with a sense of barely contained vigour. In some cases this strident presentation is exactly what's called for. When it's not, the VSX-D814 reminds us of nothing more than the proverbial bull in a china shop.

The DV-575A DVD player, by way of contrast, is a focused and single-minded machine. It has a winning way with any of the numerous disc formats it can play, but it's as a DVD-Video player that it's at its most impressive. The pictures it produces via component connections are alive with detail, even in complicated or murky scenes, and contrast is the best here. To this already promising list we can add impressive skin-tones, cast-iron motion-tracking, and a subtle, broad and lustrous colour palette. With smooth, stable edge-definition, too, the 575A comprehensively belies its modest price.

The DVD player even manages to tame some of the receiver's baser instincts when playing multichannel music: DVD-As are relayed with poise, realism, and a good dose of well-timed musicality.

It's perhaps inevitable that the VSX-D814 is happier with noisier, more blunt material and can rather bludgeon more delicate stuff; these Pioneer boxes don't have the coherence and unity of purpose as the similarly-priced Cambridge items.

However, if the receiver could match the ability of the DVD player, we'd be looking at a *Supertest* winner.

Sony system £630

DVP-NS955 DVD PLAYER	★★★★☆	£230
STR-DB900 RECEIVER	★★★☆☆	£400

FOR

Detailed picture and sound; unusual and usably small receiver; well made

AGAINST

Sound can be painfully hard; colours overblown; complex speaker set-up

VERDICT

The fierce digital sound didn't surprise us too much, but the humdrum overall performance did

★★★☆☆

TWO NEW PRODUCTS from one of the biggest hitters in home cinema – featuring a low-rise digital receiver – make this pairing the only entirely unknown quantity in this *Supertest*.

Out of the box and in the metal, the regulation Sony trademarks of hefty construction and high perceived value are present and correct. The price is towards the top end of the group, though – so the performance will have to match.

The STR-DB900 receiver is a tidy and robust alternative to the hulking great boxes on test here, thanks in the main to the digital aspect of its amp. However, the fact that it has only two auxiliary stereo inputs means that if you want to use it as the centre of your hi-fi system, that system had best not comprise more than two additional sources (apart from DVD and the built-in receiver).

Most surprisingly, and most unlike Sony, is the truly Byzantine test-tone and speaker-level set-up rigmarole; equally unusual is the nasty and uncooperative remote control. No matter – we finally got the better of the set-up procedure to be presented with a sound that's classically digital in its fierce, forward and forceful delivery. There's no lack of detail or insight, but the sound relayed is ragged, jagged and altogether harder than we'd like – no amount of soothing running-in can calm this amp's stridency.

The picture from the DVP-NS955 DVD player is just as forthright – the palette is a wide-ranging one, but the fine line between vibrant and lurid is crossed early and decisively: the many red and orange tones in *Hero* are almost painful in their intensity.

Black shading is more successful, and detail in less overblown scenes is excellent. This movie has provoked all these DVD players to one degree or another, and the Sony is no exception: there's some shimmer and noise in the most grandstanding scenes, but it's among the most stable and composed machines here. Motion-tracking, too, is solid and smooth, while the traditional Sony strength of over-engineered build quality is well represented.

There isn't any provision for DVD-Audio, but the unit has a six-channel output for multichannel SACD sound, and at the risk of damning with faint praise, it's no more abrasive than the movie sound.

Overall, this is a disappointing and surprisingly un-Sonylike combo. There are far better pairings on sale.

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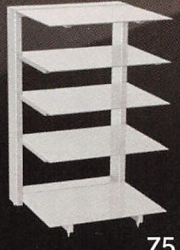

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For sound, vision and value, there's nothing in this *Supertest* that matches the Yamahas

Yamaha system £590

DVD-S550 DVD PLAYER	★★★★★	£130
RX-V650 RECEIVER	★★★★☆	£460

FOR
Authoritative, detailed sound; smooth, natural pictures; build; easy set-up

AGAINST
Lack of multichannel music ability; don't really look particularly similar

VERDICT
A very strong performance from a pair of confident devices that gel sonically like no others here

★★★★★

WHILE MANY OF the pairings here look like two halves of the same whole, the Yamaha DVD player and receiver share only a passing resemblance – if it wasn't for the manufacturer's badge in the top left-hand corner, you wouldn't know for sure that they had anything in common at all. The fact that they work from the same remote is a convenience factor not to be ignored, but let's not forget that performance is our major concern.

Of the receivers that have mic-driven auto set-ups, the RX-V650 is by far the most accomplished: once the machine had done its thing, we found there were only infinitesimal adjustments to be made manually. With *Hellboy*, it has a dynamic, detailed sound with real authority.

It might lack the ultimate finesse of Denon's AVR-1905, but the sound is presented in an agile, balanced and weighty manner, and dialogue delivered with crystal-clear clarity. It's a big soundstage that the RX-V650 conjures, well defined and rigidly separated, while the low frequency stuff that's so essential to the home cinema experience is kept on a taut, elastic leash. As it's the most expensive receiver in this test, we were expecting a competitive performance and comprehensive specification, and the Yamaha doesn't disappoint.

Despite last year's enthusiastic appraisal of the DVD-S550, we were still pleasantly surprised by this inexpensive (cheapest in the test, in fact) machine's gutsy performance. It's giving away specification left, right and centre – there's no DVD-A or SACD ability – but where it really counts, in picture quality, the Yamaha holds its head up.

It gives you a detailed image, with natural colour balance and unflappable motion-tracking. It also handles colour and contrast gradation confidently. While there's the inevitable picture noise in some testing scenes (*Hero*, again), the DVD-S550 introduces less grit than most devices here. In fact, our biggest gripe with the DVD player concerns the scant number of controls on the fascia – like everyone else, we use the remote control 99.9% of the time, but there's nothing like a lack of control from the front panel to make you want to operate a player that way.

These Yamahas get on famously. As individual components they were always in the running when Awards time came around; as a pairing, they knock socks off the competition.

WHAT IF I DON'T CARE IF MY DVD PLAYER AND RECEIVER ARE THE SAME BRAND?

We pick our favourite two products and match them up

Quite apart from the aesthetic cohesion of a one-make system (and we never underestimate how important that is to a good many punters), the convenience of a common remote control is enough to sell plenty of people on the one-make idea. But if your artistic sensibilities aren't outraged by the idea of the mix'n'match approach, what are the best machines in this sizeable group?

Well, the Denon AVR-1905 didn't take its Product of the Year gong by accident – pound-for-pound, it offers performance that can't be bettered. The lengthy features list, classy brushed-metal finish and logical remote control all add to an air of class that only the Yamaha RX-V650, at a cost of another 50 percent, comes close to matching.

The best DVD player here, too, is nothing like the most expensive. Pioneer continues its extraordinary show of form with the outstanding DV-575A – for just £150 you get a truly universal disc player that doesn't put a foot wrong. Picture, sound, build and flexibility are all first-rate and it's laughably easy to use.

These two won't look as attractive on the shelf as a one-make system and the remote count has doubled, too. But if you're not tied to a one-make solution, this £450 pair is the way to go.

Pioneer's DV-575A and the Denon AVR-1905 are a formidable pairing

WOULD SIR LIKE SPEAKERS WITH THAT?

A full-size speaker package for top-quality sounds...

Whatever you choose as regards the visual coherence of your system, you could do a lot worse than Wharfedale's fine-value Diamond 9 HCP package. It's no looker, but for £500 it presents a brilliantly unified sound. The sub integrates seamlessly with the five satellites, and the centre channel is just big enough to allow dialogue space to breathe. It's capable of big dynamic shifts and can present a convincingly three-dimensional sound. And it's discreet, well made and a piece of cake for even the weediest amplifier to drive. You'll get a sound that belies the price.

Not the most compact or good-looking package, but the Wharfedales still stun

And the alternative choice for style gurus out there...

You might not want bulky wooden speakers dotted around your ultra-modern (or otherwise) home, in which case treat yourself to some covetable, shiny, slinky speakers. Should that be the case, our compact speaker packages Product of the Year is Mordaunt-Short's £800 Genie. The five speakers are beautifully made, eminently discreet, and produce an even-handed, deft and accurate sound. The equally shiny, but slightly less compact, subwoofer is similarly accomplished, contributing a winning combination of impact and speed.

If you want compact, sleek and modern, then Mordaunt-Short's Genies are magic

Supertest
facts&figures

★ VERDICT

RECEIVER SPECS

	Power	DECODING MODES: Dolby Digital	Dolby Digital EX	DTS	DTS-ES	DTS Matrix	DTS 96/24	Dolby Pro-Logic II	Dolby Pro-Logic IIx	DTS NEO:6	Analogue audio inputs	Analogue audio outputs	Digital optical inputs	Digital coaxial inputs	Digital optical outputs	Digital coaxial outputs	VIDEO INPUTS: Composite	S-Video	Component	Dimensions (hwd; cm)	Weight (kg)
CAMBRIDGE AUDIO **Azur 540D/540R** **£200/£250** www.cambridge-audio.co.uk 08709 001000	6 x 80w	●	●	●	●			●			6	1	3	2	1	1	4	3	2	10 x 43 x 31	10
DENON **DVD-1910/AVR-1905** **£230/£300** www.denon.co.uk 01234 741200	7 x 80w	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	8	3	3	1	1	0	4	3	3	15 x 44 x 42	11
HARMAN-KARDON **DVD31/AVR130** **£400/£350** www.harmankardon.com 020 8731 4670	5 x 45w	●		●				●			5	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	0	17 x 44 x 39	11
ONKYO **DV-SP502E/TX-SR602E** **£300/£450** www.onkyo.co.uk 01494 681515	7 x 100w (claimed)	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	5	3	3	1	1	0	1	5	4	17 x 43 x 43	13
PIONEER **DV-575A/VSX-D814** **£150/£300** www.pioneer.co.uk 01753 789789	7 x 100w	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	4	1	3	2	1	0	4	4	2	16 x 42 x 40	11
SONY **DVP-NS955/STR-DB900** **£230/£400** www.sony-europe.com 08705 111999	6 x 120w	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	6	2	4	1	1	0	?	4	?	16 x 43 x 40	13
YAMAHA **DVD-S550/RX-V650** **£130/£460** www.yamaha-audio.co.uk 01923 233166	7 x 95w	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	6	3	3	2	1	0	4	4	2	17 x 43 x 42	13

	OVERALL	Picture	Sound	Features
CAMBRIDGE AUDIO Azur 540D/540R	★★★★★	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★★
DENON DVD-1910/AVR-1905	★★★★½	★★★½	★★★★★	★★★★★
HARMAN-KARDON DVD31/AVR130	★★½	★★★½	★★★½	★★½
ONKYO DV-SP502E/TX-SR602E	★★★½	★★★★½	★★½	★★★★½
PIONEER DV-575A/VSX-D814	★★★★½	★★★★★	★★★½	★★★★★
SONY DVP-NS955/STR-DB900	★★★½	★★★½	★★½	★★★★½
YAMAHA DVD-S550/RX-V650	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★½

KEY DVD-A, SACD, DVD+R/+RW, DVD-R/-RW, DVD-RAM: plays these format discs; MP3: plays CD or DVDs containing music encoded in MP3 format; COMPOSITE: the most basic video connection; S-VIDEO: A better connection than composite, but not as good as... RGB SCART: Better, but not as good as... COMPONENT: will carry progressive scan signals, but recently superseded by... DVI-D or HDMI: Superior digital connections that transfer video and audio without converting from digital to analogue; DIGITAL OPTICAL: Better audio than phono, but not as good as... DIGITAL COAXIAL: Better, but not as good as... FIREWIRE: Best audio connection; DOLBY or DTS: Decodes Dolby Digital or DTS; PROGRESSIVE SCAN: Produces superior pictures with a suitable display

DVD PLAYER SPECS

SUPPORTED FORMATS | VIDEO OUTPUTS

DVD-Video	DVD-A	DVD-R/-RW	DVD+R/+RW	DVD-RAM	CD/-R/-RW	MP3	SACD	Composite	S-Video	RGB scart	Component	DVI-D	Two-channel output	Multichannel output	Optical output	Coaxial output	Dolby Digital decoding	DTS decoding	Progressive scan	Dimension (hwd; cm)	Weight (kg)
●	●				●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	7 x 43 x 31	5
●		●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	7 x 43 x 22	2
●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	5 x 44 x 33	3.5
●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	8 x 43 x 31	3
●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	5 x 42 x 24	2
●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	6 x 43 x 24	2
●		●	●			●		●	●	●	●		●		●	●			●	5 x 44 x 31	4

DOLBY DIGITAL: most common form of surround sound; DD SURROUND EX: more depth than DD, but requires an extra speaker; DTS: similar but superior system to DD; PRO-LOGIC II: produces a '5.1'-style sound from stereo-audio sources; DTS-NEO 6: direct rival to Pro-Logic II

Supertest WINNERS

NO.345 | ONE-MAKE HOME CINEMA

Yamaha DVD-S550/RX-V650

★★★★★ £590

They might not be the most perfect aesthetic match in the test, but there's no doubting their supreme class

IF SOMETHING'S WORTH saying, it's worth saying over and over again: it doesn't automatically follow that specific individual items, no matter how well regarded, will reflect their glory onto less capable machines. Of the seven systems here, the Denon pairing featured a reigning Product of the Year and yet lost out to a Cambridge Audio combination that, individually, couldn't muster a five-star review. The same Denon assembly, in fact, couldn't overhaul a Yamaha set-up that faired no better when reviewed separately.

How does this come about? It's all tied in with the way the DVD player and receiver complement each other. Of course, there are exceptions: the Harman/Kardon duo, for example, are on perfectly good terms with each other, but that doesn't alter the fact that the DVD player is ambitiously priced and the receiver under-equipped.

To a lesser extent, this is true of the Onkyo pair, too – the receiver's not short of facilities (though it is short of personality) and the DVD player's competent enough, but a second glance at the price tag tells you everything you need to know about its chances in this company.

> "This Yamaha receiver has enough inputs and outputs to be capable of acting as the engine for a whole home cinema entertainment system"

The Sony combination is a more realistic proposition, even ignoring the receiver's trade-off between auxiliary inputs and physical size. There's an obvious unity of purpose here, and it's an admirably confident presentation, but there are too many flaws to the performance – especially where the receiver is concerned.

Of the real contenders, it's the Pioneer that is next to be dismissed. The DVD player is extraordinarily accomplished, given the price, but it's a pity the accompanying receiver can't match its surefooted presentation.

The Denon pairing is the Pioneer's mirror image – the receiver is, as our Awards issue pointed out, approaching supernatural value for money, but the DVD player is, unhappily, only average where analogue pictures are concerned. Bear in mind, though, that if you have a DVI-D or HDMI-ready display, the Denon should be your system of choice.

The two five-star systems demonstrate the greatest synergy. The Cambridge duo shows an almost telepathic harmony of purpose, generating a vivid and exciting sound to accompany a smooth and radiant picture. It's a well made, easy to use and handsome set-up, but the major reason it picks up the five stars is that each item complements the other so well. In value for money terms, this system finishes second in a photo-finish.

The winner by a short head, then, is Yamaha's RX-V650 and DVD-S550 combo. Even ignoring the lack of DVD-A/SACD multichannel compatibility, the strength of the Yamahas' all-round game is enough to claim top spot. The receiver is no more capable than Denon's AVR-1905, and the DVD player can't overhaul Pioneer's DV-575A where picture quality is concerned, but these two machines work superbly in unison, and they offer a home cinema presentation of rare accord. In addition, the receiver is capable of acting as the engine for an entire home entertainment set-up.

PLUS! Want to know what to put with your home cinema system? Turn the page

Supertest | ONE-MAKE HOME CINEMA

PERFECT PARTNERS

WE BUILD A TOP SYSTEM AROUND OUR WINNER

WE'VE LABOURED the point, so it's to be hoped that, by now, you're comfortable with our contention that system synergy will make or break the chances of what might, in isolation, be considered class-leading equipment. In other words, all bets are off until your chosen products are heard working in concert.

To partner our winning Yamaha system we've chosen Epos' superb ELS3 5.1 speaker package, which swept the opposition aside in a *Group Test* in January this year, proving comprehensively to be the perfect price-comparable partner for our winning Yamaha set-up.

> "The Epos system gives the Yamaha receiver full rein to show off its expansive sound"

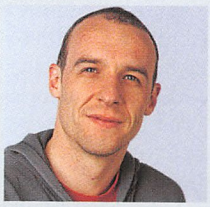
Despite their rather homely appearance, the ELS3 5.1s allow the Yamaha receiver full rein to demonstrate its expansive and detailed soundstage. The deeply impressive subwoofer allows the ample low-frequency presence to be essayed with all the clout, grip and drive you could ever desire.

The splendid centre channel speaker ensures that dialogue is crisp, coherent and well defined. The Yamaha receiver and Epos package sound made for each other.

That leaves the DVD player to be paired off. There's any number of screens and TVs that have the necessary socketry to make the most of the DVD-S550's progressive scan potential, even a few CRTs. But we want to make a selection that not only represents great value for money, but looks the part in the context of a nice new home cinema system. Toshiba's accomplished 32WL48 LCD TV fits the bill nicely – it undercuts its rivals significantly, and as January's *First Test* confirmed, it combines sturdy build quality and fine picture fidelity to winning effect. It also boasts an extensive range of inputs, making connectivity a simple matter of choosing a suitable interconnect.

On that subject, there's no more effective analogue link between DVD player and screen that QED's Qunex P-CV1 component cable – well, there is, but they're more than twice the QED's £45 price. And to connect the DVD player to the receiver, look no further than Ixos' splendid XHD-608-100. Yes, it's £50, but the refined muscularity it brings to sound means it's worth every penny. Connect the receiver to the speakers with Chord Company's Carnival Silver speaker – high-quality for just £6 per metre.

WHAT OUR TESTERS SAID...



"Though the Yamaha and Cambridge systems are the most cohesive pair on show here, anyone with a DVI-D or HDMI-equipped screen should beat a path to their Denon dealer – except perhaps owners of the Toshiba 32WL48."

Simon Lucas
Staff writer

"There's practical as well as aesthetic benefit to buying components from the same manufacturer – one less remote to clutter up your living room. The receiver remotes of all these also control the DVD player – some handle a TV, too."

Clare Newsome
Editor

"It's amazing how quickly prices have eroded in this part of the market. A year ago the likes of the Harman-Kardon and Onkyo would have been competitive. The performance and pricing of their rivals means that's no longer true."

Ketan Bharadia
Tests editor

DVD PLAYER/RECEIVER

Yamaha DVD-S550/RX-V650

£590 ★★★★★ March 2005

What more is there to be said about this pairing? On their own, they're a cracking couple of products; together they have enough synergy to leave goods that look far better on paper in their substantial wake. Offering the convenience of one remote, similar styling, and a single point of purchase, this is our favourite one-make system.

SPEAKER SYSTEM

Epos ELS3 5.1

£956 ★★★★★ January 2005

They might look like traditional, rather staid loudspeakers on the outside, but as soon as you hook them up to some appropriate electronics, you realise this is a superbly implemented design. Incredibly tight timing and drive grab your attention immediately, while excellent integration ensures the move experience never falters.

Finishing touches

DIGITAL COAXIAL CABLE
Ixos's £50 XHD-608-199 is talented enough to give your system more muscular sounds

COMPONENT CABLE
QED's Qunex P-CV1 costs £45 and is worth every penny – it'll give you a real visual treat

SPEAKER CABLE
At £6/m, the Chord Company's Carnival Silver is the choice

EQUIPMENT RACK
Atacama's fine range includes this AV rack – prices from £140

"Toshiba's 32in LCD fits the bill nicely: sturdy build, fine picture, for a great price"

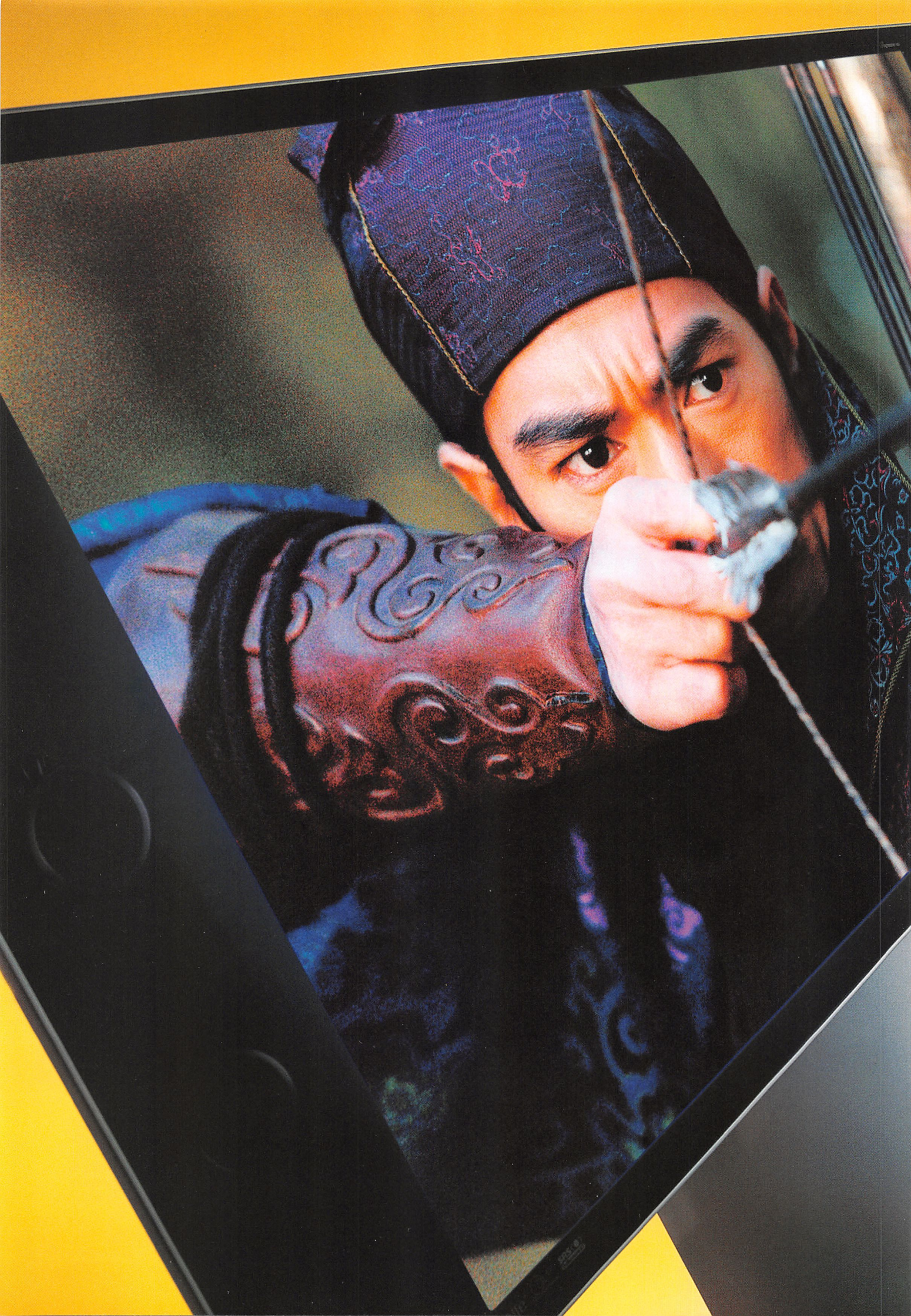
32IN LCD TV
Toshiba 32WL48
£2000 ★★★★★ January 2005

Despite the fact that we reckon the HDMI performance of this television could be better, this isn't a concern using the Yamaha DVD player, because you'll be feeding this stylish set via component inputs. And can it do the business? Oh yes it can: superb picture, decent sound, and – most importantly – it's terrific value.

THE WINNING SYSTEM

VERDICT
Combining traditional speaker looks, with a smart, modern TV and superb electronics at its heart – this system has something for everyone, not least movies fans who'll be hanging on to their pants

Total £3546



Group Test

REAR-PROJECTION DLP TVs £2000-£3500

A massive 50in screen for half the price of a plasma

These super-size TVs have picture-quality that's not far short of a conventional CRT, and better than a plasma

What's new?

These affordable, larger-than-life, rear-projection DLP television are. DLP technology is already commonly used in home-cinema projectors and is now making an appearance in televisions. We've got four such models lined up, all determined to impress us with their screen size, image quality and attractive prices: Samsung, Thomson, Themescene and Toshiba are all in the ring.

What do you get for your money?

How does a 50in screen appeal? Three of these sets have such a monster screen, while the Toshiba is a smidgen smaller, with a 46in diagonal. Besides integrated speakers, stand and remote control, all these sets are High-Definition ready – each model has a screen resolution of 1280 x 768 pixels. All have an HDMI or a DVI input – for use with a compatible DVD player, to transfer data in an uncompressed digital form – as well as component inputs and Scarts, giving the potential for a real visual treat. The drawback is that they're not flat like a plasma, but the depth of the largest here is only 40cm, so they're nothing like as bulky as an equivalent CRT television might be.

Will it fit into your system?

If you're looking to replace your tired old telly with something more substantial, then there's plenty to admire in these four sets. They're also a fine alternative to investing in a standalone projector and screen, since they incorporate much of the same technology in a slightly more compact and practical package. The fact that they're all capable of accepting a High-Definition picture is a bonus, and if your DVD player features a DVI or HDMI output, then you should take advantage of these sets' connections. Beware, though, that these are very big screens, so make sure your room can accommodate them comfortably.

What are we looking for?

Sets that achieve a quality picture at an attractive price. Off-air TV and DVD images must have detail and contrast, a natural colour balance, and we want the minimum of visual nasties such as motion-smearing or digital artefacts. Build, styling, sound and features are also factors, but secondary to picture quality.

Our star ratings explained

Five-star sets offer superb value for money and peerless video/audio quality. Four-star models deliver good performance in most areas, but lack the outright ability of the class-leaders. Three stars indicate an average performer that doesn't especially impress in any area, and two mean it's a relatively poor proposition. Don't bother giving a one-star product a second glance.

For all our television verdicts, see our *Buyer's Guide* starting on p99 ···›

THE CONTENDERS

SAMSUNG SP50L7HX — £3500

The striking stand makes and hefty price tag make for an interesting prospect, but how good is the image quality going to be?

THEMESCENE RD50 — £2000

Compared to the Samsung, this 50in set looks to be incredibly cheap, but will it have good enough picture quality?

THOMSON 50DLY — £2500

This TV is the latest addition to Thomson's Scenium range, and is a stylish 50in television that promises much

TOSHIBA 46WM48 — £2000

The last of our rear-projection DLP televisions is another bargain set, but this time you 'only' get a 46in screen size

Samsung SP50L7HX £3500

FOR
Truly outstanding pictures with DVD playback; eerily realistic depth of field; attractive styling

AGAINST
Stand lacks storage space

VERDICT
If you've got a living room large enough to accommodate it, then this high-quality 50in TV is fantastic value

★★★★★

HAVE A MOP and bucket on hand when you're unpacking this stunner from Samsung, because you could be slipping around in your own drool! The 50in SP50L7HX is a beauty: a slick, gloss-black picture frame extending outwards to incorporate the set's two 30-watt speakers.

And then there's the stand: it's a beautifully curvy design, but – boring pragmatists among you – note that it does take up quite a lot of space and there aren't any shelves, so you might need to fork out for a rack, too.

All the sockets are round the back of the stand's curvaceous column. Complementing the three Scart sockets is a set of component video inputs and – more importantly – an HDMI connection. This last interface accepts all-digital video and audio from compatible DVD players.

The visual result is breathtaking. Viewing via the component video inputs produces enjoyable enough images, but using the HDMI input really blows your mind. Picture quality is sensational. Spin *Star Wars: Episode II* and you're presented with a sublime picture of cinema-like proportions. It feels as though you've been airlifted from the safety of your own sofa and dumped in the middle of the Clone Wars. Images boast a fantastic sense of detail combined with an immersive depth of field. Fast movement is handled with precision and poise as the Republic's ships shoot across your screen at an unrelenting rate of knots.

> "Viewing via component inputs is enjoyable enough, but HDMI performance stuns"

Try *Shrek 2*-style animation and you're given a massively impressive colour range, combining vivid hues with more subtle shades.

The TV tuner does a good job of holding a signal with minimal traces of noise. Hook up a digital TV tuner, and matters improve even further.

On the sound front, we preferred to listen with all pseudo-surround functions turned off, giving more weight to proceedings. Dialogue comes across with clarity, but the Samsung does sound on the thin side when compared to the best performers of the bunch.

The Samsung produces the best picture in the group and can justify its high price. What's more, this screen size would cost twice as much if you opted for a 50in plasma.

The stand is an impressive piece of engineering that, as well as looking smart, incorporates the socketry

ThemeScene RD50 £2000

FOR
Impressive DVD pictures; good detail and contrast; sounds great; price

AGAINST
Off-air TV pictures noisy and grainy

VERDICT
For £2000, you get a 50in DLP TV with good sound and DVD picture quality – it's a veritable bargain

★★★★★

BACK IN THE day, when TVs were limited to just Scart sockets, it was big news if a set had two such inputs. How things have changed!

An explosion of new technologies and interfaces has lead to the need for a variety of connectivity options, all of which the Themescene RD50 caters for. There are no less than 11 different sockets, including a component video input for progressive scan images and a DVI input for uncompressed digital signals.

And for around the price of a top-of-the-range 36in CRT television, you get 50 inches of screen size and a DVD picture that punches well above the price. Images are vibrant, full of life and brimming with colour and contrast. A quick spin of *Shrek2* reveals a full colour palette, while the set is also capable of picking out subtle shades in the more natural surroundings of *The Terminal*.

Using the DVI input enhances the image to reveal more insight in *Hellboy*. The on-screen action scenes become sharper and more cohesive, especially when it comes to the spectacular fights and flurries of explosive set pieces. The viewing angle of the RD50 is also worthy of mention, with the picture remaining viewable when moving off-axis both vertically and horizontally.

> "Off-axis images from the RD50 are very good, with the picture remaining good from wherever you look"

Off-air TV pictures are up to a decent enough standard, but do appear soft and hindered by traces of grain, especially in areas of poor reception. They can be slightly improved upon by hooking up a digital set-top box – this gives slightly more definition and clarity to images.

The set delivers sound in a solid and composed manner. Dialogue is full-bodied, natural and the speakers can cope with more boisterous levels.

Considering the low price, the ThemScene represents a great buy. It doesn't quite exude the desirability of some of the other models, but it still represents a shrewd purchase.

Compared with other RPTVs and plasmas, this is a great-value supersize television

New Soundstyle Modular

The all new Modular furniture range from Soundstyle offers the discerning enthusiast an unsurpassed combination of leading edge styling, modular flexibility, strength and class leading sonic performance.

Available in both hi-fi and home cinema variants, modular can be further customised by the addition of optional extra shelves.

The columns are luxuriously finished in Gloss Black or Lacquered Silver and complemented by glass shelves in a choice of three opalescent colours: Platinum, Black and Aqua.

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Stand 6
The Bristol Suite,
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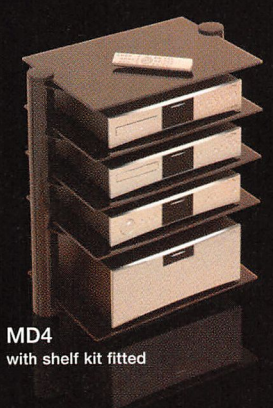
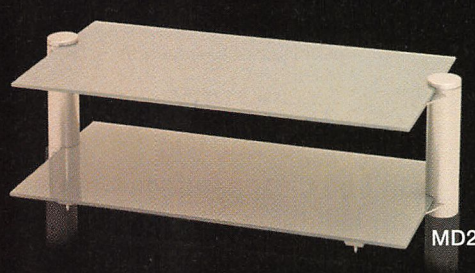
25th - 27th February 2005

Call **01279 719959** for a brochure or click **www.soundstyle.co.uk** for further information.



MD4
with shelf kit fitted



MD2

SOUNDSTYLE

Armour Home Electronics, Units 7 & 8, Stortford Hall Industrial Park, Dunmow Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 5GZ
Tel: 01279 501111 Fax: 01279 501080 Email: info@soundstyle.co.uk www.soundstyle.co.uk

Thomson 50DLY £2500

FOR
Appealing looks; fine colour balance; good connectivity; competent sound

AGAINST
Abundance of noise and grain with off-air and DVD pictures; lack of pinsharp definition; edges of images prone to pixelation and ringing

VERDICT
The Thomson isn't a particularly poor set, but it has too many flaws to recommend it above the others here

★★★☆☆

THE 50DLY645 IS the latest addition to Thomson's Scenium range. It's an attractive piece of kit, with the 50in screen protruding from an elegant light-grey frame. Around the rear of the unit, the connections include Scart, component and DVI inputs.

The remote control is easy enough to operate, while the on-screen menus offer all the usual image-adjustment settings, including sharpness, contrast and colour.

Feed the set an off-air signal and the performance is disappointing, with an near-Alpine blizzard of noise and grain on-screen. This prevents the Thomson from delivering clear and crisp images. Pixelation results in a loss of edge-definition and images are also affected by 'ringing' – the set struggling to define on-screen icons that illustrate channels such as BBC News 24.

DVD performance is marginally better. The provision of a DVI input allows the transfer of uncompressed video data. However, bringing one of our reference DVD players into the equation, the DVI-capable Denon

> "Sonically, this Thomson set is very competent: crank up the volume and the speakers really deliver"

DVD-3910, the Thomson couldn't produce an above-average level of quality. Images are watchable, but you can get better for the money.

The Thomson does inject films with a good dose of colour, and differentiates between more subtle hues, too. However, grain and noise again prove a hindrance, distracting you from the detail and special effects of the visually stunning *Hero*.

Sonically speaking, the 50DLY645 is highly competent. Crank up the volume and the speakers deliver a composed and controlled rendition of the *Hero* soundtrack.

Unfortunately, this set's attractive looks aren't mirrored in its performance. It's let down by its below-par performance in this company.

The least convincing here, the Thomson TV has strengths, but its rivals are better all-round products

Toshiba 46WM48 £2000

FOR
A fine performer across the board; good with TV and DVD pictures; price

AGAINST
Images lack the lip-smacking beauty of the best; contrast could be better

VERDICT
There's no harm in giving the Toshiba an audition – it's a good jack-of-all-trades DLP television

★★★★☆

AND SO WE reach the final DLP TV in this *Group Test*, and yet another set that uses the Texas Instruments HD2+ chipset as its core component. But Toshiba's own ingredients have also been incorporated into the 46WM48, in the guise of the company's Real Digital picture-processing technology. This is claimed to aid analogue and digital signals, producing clearer, more accurate and higher quality images.

Furthermore, the Toshiba is fitted with an HDMI interface, to ensure the best picture and sound quality. And the images are certainly some of the best we've seen on a set this size. The 46WM48 is a fine all-rounder: with terrestrial broadcasts, it delivers an enjoyable picture. Images have fine detail and an even colour balance. There are traces of noise and grain, but these aren't too distracting.

Use the HDMI input to connect a compatible DVD player and you won't be disappointed. Detail levels are higher, and the set produces images that look realistic and natural. The noise and grain seen before is notably lessened, with the action

> "Use the HDMI input and you won't be disappointed by the improvement in the picture and sound"

scenes in *Hellboy* remaining clear. Thankfully, the colours don't look overcooked or overblown.

However, the Toshiba does lacks the initial 'wow' factor of the top sets in this grouping. Your jaw only drops a few centimetres, as opposed to thumping down to the floor with the very best performers. It just lacks that extra detail, contrast and three-dimensionality needed to draw you into the heart of the action.

In the sound department, the Toshiba is a pretty competent performer. There's a decent sense of weight given to the comic-book derived action of *Hellboy*. Switching off the various fancy sound modes and opting for basic Nicam stereo keeps everything under control, though some movie moments can sound hard and aggressive when the volume level is pushed higher.

The Toshiba is a good all-round TV, but doesn't excel in terms of outright quality. At the price, it's worth investigating if you're on the look-out for a 46in television, but some bigger screens deliver bigger screen thrills.

Though it lacks the sparkle of the best on test here, the Tosh is a mighty fine TV

Crane Audio exclusively manufacture high quality speakers from AluminiUm

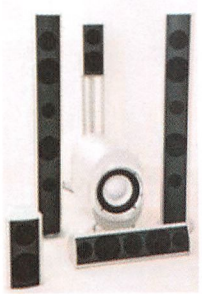
What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision review of the Oceana 3

"The impressive level of integration and rhythm makes this system an extremely convincing package"

"The sound is all-encompassing, adding a real sense of spaciousness to surround sound-tracks in films. Special effects sweep inconspicuously around the room, enveloping you"

"The Oceana 3 also excels musically: in stereo, the three-way front speakers are capable of outstanding dynamics, as well as detail that puts many a home cinema package to shame"

"The Oceana 3 is proof that beautifully styled systems can sound spectacular, too"



The Oceana 3
with Submariner subwoofer

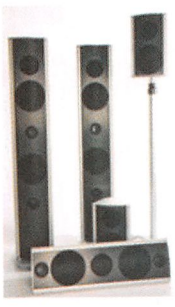
Essential Home Cinema review of the Oceana 5

"The Oceana 5 series was quite at home punching out **Gladiator's** dramatic effects, and whether in the Emperor's Palace or Coliseum, the audio was extremely atmospheric and head turning to say the least. Near perfect displacement meant that important sounds could be tracked approaching and moving through each individual channel. So, when mounted soldiers were on the war path, we heard them coming a long time before Mrs Maximus and son"

"It gave optimum amounts of warmth and detailed dialogue, springing forth in full bodied tones"

"Horses thundered up towards the screen while crowds roared from all corners of our test room"

Submariner Subwoofer
"As hooves pounded the ground, we had the Submariner to thank for creating such a thunderous performance that only got better the more demanding the scenes grew"



The Oceana 5

Need we say more!

Tel: 0870 444 1056 **or visit our website** www.craneaudio.com

Screen images are simulated. Laptop shown not included. ©2005 Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

The camcorder with plenty of other talents

The Samsung Miniket is a high performance camcorder. It's also a digital camera, MP3 player, webcam, voice recorder and data store. All rolled into an ultra-compact design you could hide behind a credit card. But it's not just good looks, it has a movie-optimised CCD giving enhanced video quality and a choice of built-in 512MB or 1GB memory, plus a memory card slot. In fact, Miniket gives you so many options to record and play you can take with you everywhere. Now you'll never miss a trick. **www.samsung.co.uk**

Samsung Miniket

SAMSUNG

Group Test

facts&figures

Price range
£2000-£3500

SPECIFICATIONS	Samsung SP50L7HX	ThemeScene RD50
Price	£3500	£2000
Screen size	50in	50in
Chipset	Texas Instr. HD2+	Texas Instr. HD2+
Resolution	1280 x 720	1280 x 720
Contrast ratio	2500:1	2000:1
Inputs	HDMI, cmpnt, Scart, S-Vid, PC	DVI, cmpnt, Scart S-Video, PC
Dimensions (hwd)	61 x 90 x 53cm	90 x 117 x38cm
Weight	57kg	41kg
HOW THEY RATED		
Picture	★★★★★	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★½	★★★★★
★ VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS	Thomson 50DLY	Toshiba 46WM48
Price	£2500	£2000
Screen size	50in	46in
Chipset	Texas Instr. HD2+	Texas Instr. HD2+
Resolution	1280 x 720	1280 x 720
Contrast ratio	1500:1	1000:1
Inputs	DVI, cmpnt, Scart, S-Video, PC	HDMI, compnt, Scart, S-Video
Dimensions (hwd)	99 x 119 x 42cm	81 x 135 x 39cm
Weight HOW THEY	37kg	35kg
RATED		
Picture	★★★½☆	★★★★½
Features	★★★★½	★★★★½
Sound	★★★★½	★★★★½
★ VERDICT	★★★½☆	★★★★½

Group Test WINNER

REAR-PROJECTION DLP TVs

Samsung SP50L7HX

★★★★★ £3500

Though it's by far the most expensive TV here, picture quality is out of this world

SO WHAT CAN we take from this big-screen bonanza? If the top performers in this test are anything to go by, then it's time to get excited. These huge screens are all reasonably priced and some boast top-drawer performance that's a real threat to the current crop of plasma television beauties.

Despite being the most expensive in the test, we were astounded by the Samsung SP-50L7HX. Its DVD performance blew the majority of the rival sets out of the water. And we can't remember seeing a picture from a 50in plasma set capable of holding a torch to this stellar screen. Its ability to create a realistic and three-dimensional DVD image is second to none in this category. The fact that it looks stunning just adds fuel to its fire.

ThemeScene's RD50 also weighs in with a full set of five stars and comes a close second. At £2000 it's temptingly priced – it might not have the super-slick styling of the Samsung, but the substance is there for all to see. Its images appear detailed, cohesive and colourful, while it's also the best-sounding television out of this *Group Test*. It's an excellent value-for-money purchase.

Toshiba's 46in model, the 46WM48P, is highly capable, and the smaller screen size provides an alternative to its more domineering 50in counterparts. (Have you ever sat in front of a 50in screen? They're huge!). The Tosh is a competent all-rounder providing good off-air television and DVD images – however, there's a lack of on-screen sparkle and depth. Images don't have the visual impact that's more apparent with the class-leading sets.

Last of all, we have the Thomson set. This, too, is a good-looking piece of kit, but unfortunately it doesn't quite have the picture quality to match its looks or the quality of its rivals here. Noise and grain detract from the overall picture quality, which doesn't provide the same amount of enjoyment as the Samsung, ThemeScene or the Toshiba. It's decent enough, but for the same money there's better available.

Make no mistake, if you hanker after the big-screen experience, then we urge you to audition the top TV in this test. Super-aggressive pricing makes these rear-projection DLP TVs hugely tempting: they might hammer another nail in the coffin of similar-sized plasmas.

PERFECT PARTNERS

DVD PLAYER

Arcam DV79 £1000

★★★★★ Awards 2004

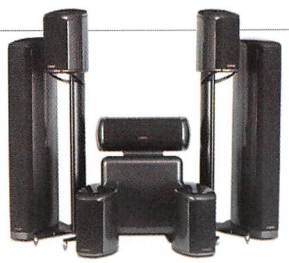
Mindblowing DVD picture *and* great CD playback – the DV79 has them both. An HDMI digital output will help get the best out of any of these rear-projection DLP TVs, even those with a DVI input.

MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER

Arcam AVR250 £1000

★★★★★ Awards 2004

Whether it's movies or music, the Arcam is spectacular listening. DVD soundtracks are delivered with a soft touch or firm hand as and when required. Add sublime steering and you've got a classy receiver.

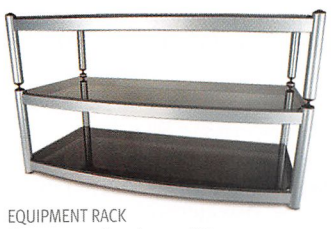


MULTICHANNEL SPEAKER PACKAGE

Mission Elegante e82 £3990

★★★★★ Awards 2004

Gorgeous looks and breathtaking sound make this Mission package a thing of visual and sonic beauty. It's capable of unearthing layer after layer of detail and emitting it with agility and a dynamic twist.



EQUIPMENT RACK

Atacama Equinox AV £400

★★★★★ Awards 2004

Racks keep your equipment safe, look good and also optimise performance. For example, you can expect fractionally better colour, detail and contrast from your DVD player with the Atacama.

We tested with | **DVD players** Denon DVD-3910; Toshiba SD-340E; **digital TV tuner** Pace Twin Digital; **cables & interconnects** QED/Atlas/Monster Scart, component and HDMI/DVI connectors

DVD: The next generation

Two new disc formats are launched this year, both after DVD's crown as the home entertainment king

BELIEVE IT OR not, DVD has been around for nearly a decade. We demonstrated an early prototype player in 1996, and carried out our very first 'proper' review of a UK-spec model in the June 1997 issue.

Over that period, the format has matured nicely. Most players and discs now offer exemplary picture and sound quality for your money. That performance, coupled to an extensive disc inventory and plummeting player prices, has cemented the format's place in our hearts: around 65 percent of the UK's 18 million households now owns a DVD player.

If DVD is so great, why change?

Simple: while this picture looks very rosy for the consumer, it's a genuine concern for the home entertainment industry. DVD players have got too cheap, too rapidly: even 'mainstream' brands sell products costing less than £80, and it's hard to make much money on that sort of business, even if you're selling products in considerable numbers. So, priority number one for the industry is to come up with a way of convincing us happy DVD owners to 'trade up' to something newer. The easiest way to do that is to develop something that offers you an even better-quality disc for your money – and that's precisely what the industry has set out to do.

So is DVD dead soon?

No way! CD is still around, after all. The aim is to offer better-than-DVD picture and sound quality as a supplement to – rather than a replacement for – the existing format. However, that might change long term.

Okay, so it's like DVD 2.0?

Kinda... sadly, we're going to be treated to yet another re-run of the VHS versus Betamax battle. Two new, competing formats, Blu-Ray and HD-DVD, are being launched in the USA shortly (though there's no word of when they'll make the move over here as yet). Both formats will be offered as both 'play only' and recordable discs, and the dedicated players for each type of disc will also be able to replay your existing DVD collection. That's the good news. The bad news is that a Blu-Ray disc won't play in an HD-DVD deck, or vice versa. Ah, the joys of format wars!

Toshiba's HD-DVD prototype (left) is likely to spawn both a player and a recorder (as yet unnamed), but due out towards the end of 2005. Meanwhile, Sony's BDZ-S77 Blu-Ray recorder (above-right) is already available in Japan. Both models can also be used to replay standard DVDs and CDs.

“Picture quality on every LCD, plasma and projector is expected to improve by around 25%”

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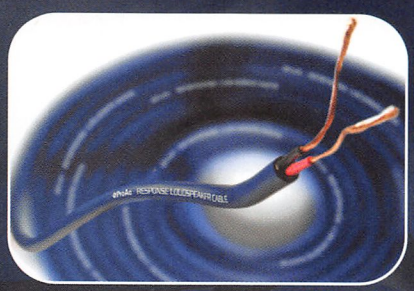

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How are the new discs better?

In the crudest terms, the answer is fairly simple: they're bigger. Not in the physical sense, but in terms of capacity. Higher quality video, particularly High Definition video of the type being broadcast in the USA and Japan, takes up more space than conventional video: indeed, it won't actually fit on a standard DVD disc, which puts the existing format at a quality disadvantage in certain markets. Though you'd never believe it in the UK, broadcast TV now looks better than DVD in certain parts of the world! More data capacity can also be used to support enhanced sound (perhaps with less compression), more of those extras, more interactive features, or more plain digital data.

More? How much more?

Tons more! HD-DVD will offer a maximum capacity of 30GB (gigabytes), while Blu-Ray can offer a massive 50GB, with the possibility of more on the way in the future.

That huge amount of space offers extraordinary possibilities. You can store around nine hours of High Definition video on a 50GB disc, or 23 hours of standard 'ordinary' video. That's enough space to fit the whole *Lord of the Rings* trilogy on one disc in High Definition 720p quality. That means the picture quality on every LCD, plasma and projector should improve by around 25 percent.

Surely Blu-Ray will win?

As it offers greater capacity, it's tempting to say 'yes, obviously', but life's seldom that clear-cut. The hardware companies had drawn up their battle lines early, and at first glance, the odds seem impossibly stacked against HD-DVD. The format is backed by NEC, Sanyo and Toshiba; while Blu-Ray draws on the might of Hitachi, LG, Mitsubishi, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung, Sharp, Sony and Thomson.

However, the deciding factor is usually not the quality of the technology (after all Betamax was better than VHS), but what content (movies, basically) are on sale on each format. Here, the struggle looks to be far more even. HD-DVD is supported by New Line, Paramount, Universal, Warner and HBO; while Blu-Ray can muster 20th Century Fox, Disney, and Sony Pictures Entertainment, with its attendant companies Columbia Tristar and MGM. Translate this into disc sales, and it looks as if the movie industry is split roughly 50:50 between the two discs.

There's also another powerful force influencing the debate: the computer industry. Blu-Ray is backed by Hewlett-Packard and Dell, while Microsoft recently announced that the next version of Windows will support HD-DVD.

What about region coding?

Issues like that are to be settled in the first quarter of this year. One school of thought suggests that since region coding has been such a failure for normal DVD, it might be abandoned for the new discs. On the other hand, some reckon Hollywood will use this opportunity to get it right. The Motion Picture Association of America is keen that HD-DVD or Blu-Ray players should only provide High Definition video from digital outputs, such as HDMI – and it's notably easier to introduce strong copy-protection using this connection.

Right! So what happens next?

Blu-Ray recorders are already on sale in Japan, and HD-DVD decks are due out later this year. It looks like both discs are here to stay, so brace yourself for an awkward buying decision – unless someone launches a 'universal' disc player pretty soon. One thing's for sure: your eyes are in for a treat.

DVD vs THE NEWCOMERS

Externally, all three discs look very similar, but look closer, and the new formats vastly improved performance over existing DVD discs

	STANDARD DVD	BLU-RAY	HD-DVD
Max capacity (GB)	17	50	30
Coding system	MPEG2	MPEG2, MPEG4	MPEG2, MPEG4, WMV-9
Maximum bit-rate	17Mbps	36Mbps	36Mbps
Disc layers	1 or 2	1 or 2	1 or 2
Video quality supported	480i, 576i	720p, 1080i	720p, 1080i
Sound systems supported	Dolby Digital, DTS, PCM	Dolby Digital, DTS-HD, PCM	Dolby Digital Plus, DTS-HD, PCM
Recordable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Max storage:			
High Definition	Not available as standard	9 hours	8 hours
Standard Definition	8 hours (DVD-18)	23 hours	15 hours

WHAT KIND OF DISPLAY WILL SUIT BLU-RAY AND HD-DVD?

If you want to buy a screen that's 'ready' for both the new disc formats, high resolution and a digital video input socket are essentials. These are great choices:

REAR-PROJECTION TELEVISION

Look for DLP (Digital Light Processing) based designs with a minimum resolution of 1280 x 720. The Toshiba 46WM48 costs £2000 and includes an HDMI input

PLASMA TELEVISION

Pioneer's fantastic PDP-435XDE will set you back £3500. It comes with 1024 x 768 resolution, and has an HDMI input socket fitted to its media centre

LCD TELEVISION

Toshiba's excellent 32WL48 is a great choice, and includes both 1366 x 768 resolution and an HDMI input. It's great value at £1700

PROJECTOR

Panasonic's £1700 PT-AE700 is a cracker, with 1280 x 720 resolution, an HDMI input, and a great picture

LYRA
Record Radio
Recording...
00:00:11
FM 90.10 Mhz
Now Playing
2 of 14
Wow
Snow Patrol
Final Straw [Bonus Tr...
2:02
-2:00
MENU
ARCHOS
Video
Music
Resume
Browser
Games
AudioCorde
Gmini 400
SONY
MENU
Repeat
Play Mode
Sound
AVLS
Beep
00:00
NETWORK WALKMAN NW-HD3

Group Test

MP3 PLAYERS £219 - £252

Put MP3 and more in your pocket–for less

Can the iPod keep its crown when faced with Sony's first MP3 offering plus bargain multimedia rivals?

What's new?

Three products appear for the first time in WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION: the Archos Gmini 400, Sony's NW-HD3, and the Thomson Lyra PDP2845. The iPod 20GB is the one to beat, being our current MP3 player of choice. Sony's new player is the big news, with the inventors of the Walkman and the MiniDisc finally launching a seriously stylish-looking competitor to the iPod. The NW-HD3 promises an impressive 30 hours of uninterrupted playback – three times the iPod's battery life. The Archos is the jack of all trades, offering a dazzling array of features, including playback of video clips.

What do you get for your money?

Everything you need is in the box – namely, the player, headphones, a USB cable, an AC adapter, and any software that's needed to organise your files. These players are some of the best-sounding available, and with every step away from £200 you take – in the 'wrong' direction – expect something more for your money. The Archos music player also has a colour screen for photo and video clip playback.

What can you do with these portables?

These portables allow you to take a large number of digital music files with you on the move. The minimum storage capacity on show here is 20GB, which means somewhere in the region of 6000 tracks, but the Thomson will hold double that. So, obviously how large a hard disk you need is a major consideration. Only the Archos offers video playback, so how you plan to use your player is another major factor on which you'll base your buying decision.

What were we looking for?

First and foremost you should demand an exceptional quality of sound. And yes, it should look rather smart, too, be a nice pocketable size, and weigh something that won't break your pocket, but sonic performance has to be the main concern. Other important factors are battery life, storage capacity and ease of use – of both the interface and any associated software.

Our ratings explained

A five-star product is the best available for the price. Stars are dropped for shortcomings in performance, features or spec. It's important to remember that four stars is still a good product, it's just lacking something, somewhere, that keeps the five stars at bay. Three, two and one-star products are less appealing.

For more portable audio player test verdicts, see our *Buyer's Guide* starting on p99

THE CONTENDERS

Apple iPod 20GB £219

This is a 20GB version of the player that kicked off the MP3 revolution, but can it still hold off the competition?

ARCHOS Gmini 400 £235

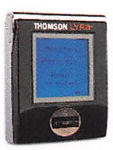
Much cheaper than the iPod, and it plays video clips, as well – but it's no good if it doesn't have the sound quality, too

SONY NW-HD3 £219

The first generation of Sony players to support MP3 – from the company that invented both the Walkman and MiniDisc

THOMSON Lyra PDP2845 £252

In the past, Thomson portables have been solid performers, without setting world on fire – on paper, this looks great value



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Apple iPod 20GB £219

FOR
iPod usability and style; class-leading sound, and the unbeatable iTunes

AGAINST
Rivals are starting to offer more features for less money

VERDICT
Still leads the way in terms of style, sonic ability and sheer usability; for portable digital music look no further

★★★★★

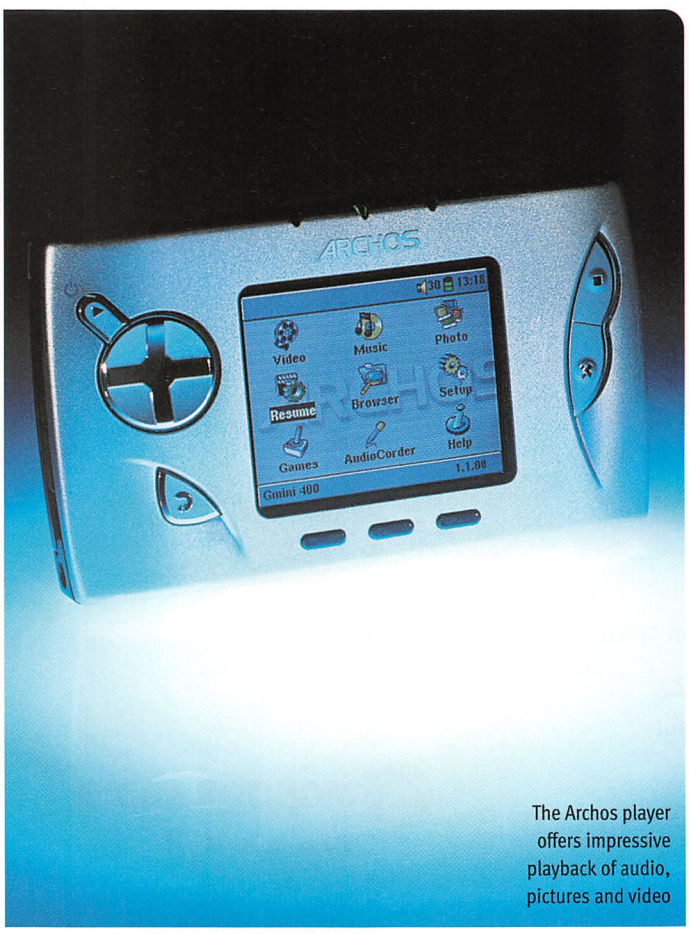
IT WOULD SEEM that there are some constants in the world of MP3 players. Competitors continue to close the gap, but Apple still has the edge in key areas with its world-beating iPod. This is the fourth-generation model, and it remains the player to beat.

This version gave us a number of genuine improvements to the previous incarnations. First, it's even more pocket-friendly, thanks to a slimmer, lighter design – it weighs in at a mere 158g. And, proving you can learn from your smaller siblings, the 'click wheel' first seen on the iPod Mini makes the transfer to the 20GB model. It's a wise decision: the click wheel is a work of genius. A single digit is all that's required to scroll smoothly and speedily from screen to screen, putting many of its rivals' interfaces to shame.

The accompanying iTunes software does a similar job, beating all-comers on the market, and is itself a genuine reason for choosing an Apple product. Files are transferred to the iPod using AAC compression, or the sonically superior Apple Lossless format for transferring CDs, and the quality is excellent. This fourth-generation also sounds better than its predecessors, giving bassy, drum-heavy tracks such as Eminem's *My 1st Single* a weightier, punchier performance. There is also an improved level of detail and dynamics, better than the majority of portables are able to muster.

The new Sony player hits the iPod where it hurts on the battery front – an Achilles heel of sorts for Apple – but the iPod 20GB still offers a perfectly adequate 12 hours of playback time. The only thing on the horizon to worry the iPod, as we highlight in this test, is the emergence of photo and video playback – something that the iPod Photo looks to address. But if music on the move is all you require, this remains the player to beat.

Superb styling, excellent sound and a fantastic user interface



The Archos player offers impressive playback of audio, pictures and video

Archos Gmini 400 £235

FOR
Great sound and video, plus pictures, data and games; AV out; looks and feels just fine

AGAINST
Battery life; navigation tricky at first

VERDICT
Amaze your friends with this pocket-rocket – a genuine master of all trades in the portable market

★★★★★

AT FIRST GLANCE, the beautiful Archos Gmini 400 seems a million miles away from the Gmini XS200 we reviewed last month. Forget the drab design and styling, and the rather uninspiring interface, this little baby – and it is small – is a joy to behold.

Sleek, sexy and with a cracking colour screen, this player cries out to be explored. In fact, the wealth of features, with every screen buzzing with activity, makes initial contact rather confusing, despite the clarity of the excellent 2.2in LCD. But it is an intuitive affair, and you'll soon get your bearings. It's not just a jukebox: the Gmini 400 holds pictures, video and data, and there are games, too.

It's amply endowed with every necessary connection, with a mic and line in for recording, and an AV out allowing you to connect to a screen for viewing pictures – it'll store 4000 500KB JPEGs – or to connect to your amp for music. There's also a memory card connection for easy data transport.

It would be a waste not to use the wealth of storage options, but even if judged solely for its musical ability, the Gmini 400 still rates highly, thanks to the great sound quality we're getting used to from Archos. It's proudly loud (hurrah!), showing off a wide, dynamic sound, perhaps only lacking the speed and punch of rivals when dealing with more complex tracks. There's a 'now playing' option to create playlists on the go, and controls are clear - if at times the screens can be sluggish to load. Video quality is excellent, too, with bright colours and detailed blacks.

There's little to complain about here. The battery life isn't great at 10 hours (five for video), but this remains a feature-laden product at a great price.

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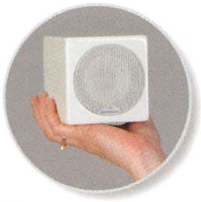

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Sony NW-HD3 £219

FOR
Excellent sound from a compact, stylish player with a huge battery life

AGAINST
Software could be simpler, and the screen clearer; no playlists on the go

VERDICT
Sure to find make friends with its good battery life and sound quality, but a shame there are annoyances

★★★★☆

IF ANYONE HAS a name to rival Apple's in the world of stylish portable players, it must be the inventor of the Walkman, Sony. The NW-HD3 is a typically cool-looking bit of a kit – it's a small, light, solid-feeling device.

You control the Sony player via a four-point circular button, which has a select/play push-button in the centre. There are also 'menu', 'mode' and volume controls perched on the narrow top edge of the device.

The huge battery life is the standout feature of this product – Sony has managed to raise the barrier again with a whopping 30 hours of replay time.

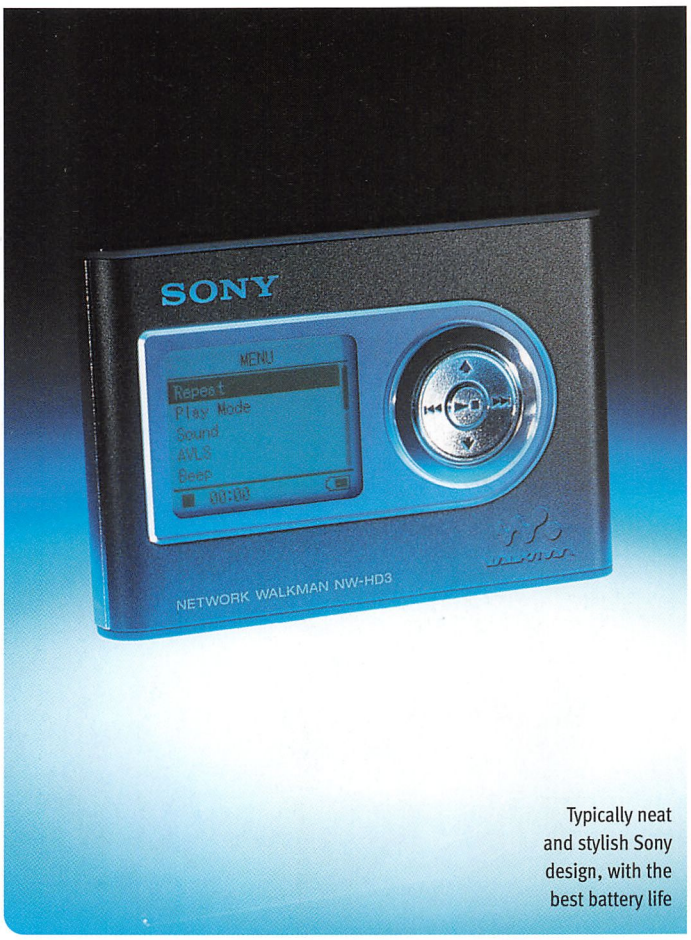
The latest edition of Sony's SonicStage software is included for managing your files (version 2.3 for the geeks) and very smart it is, too. And it should be, considering how long it takes to load with seemingly endless set-up processes to endure.

Sadly, this pattern continues while transferring tunes, a process that's slower than with its rivals – we found transferring several hundred tunes takes around 15 minutes – and it wasn't just a case of dragging and dropping.

Pleasingly, the sound quality is excellent – up with the best players we've heard. Treble is crisp, keeping a good rhythm to the track, while the bass is deep and tight, and has pace. There's a superb dynamic range to music, especially with good-quality headphones, and a simple EQ to personalise the sound to your taste. The interface is simple enough to use, though the screen could be clearer. Response time when selecting is fast.

Critiscism? It lacks an 'on the go' option, so playlists have to be created beforehand, and we found ourselves maxing out the volume time and again.

Overall, the Sony is a good partner to live with, but it can be bettered.



Typically neat and stylish Sony design, with the best battery life

A large capacity player costing a reasonable price but it doesn't excel

Thomson Lyra PDP2845 £252

FOR
Well-priced for a 40GB unit, with useful extras; recordable digital FM radio

AGAINST
There are other products that have more to offer in several key areas

VERDICT
A decent player and good value, but the sound quality, usability and styling won't trouble the big guns

★★★☆☆

THE LATEST ADDITION to the Lyra range impresses from the off, coming as it does with a wealth of handy extras. An adapter for using your MP3 player through your car stereo, a carry case and an in-car charger all come dropping out of the box – not to mention the usual headphones, mains charger and USB cable. The PDP2845 can certainly be used on the go.

The player itself is rather bulky and deceptively heavy (163g) for its size, though the black and silver styling with a single control button on the front and others tucked on the side is smart enough, if just a tad unexciting.

Tracks can be stored in the 40GB memory by dragging and dropping from your desktop, but there's a twist. In order for the tracks to appear on your player, they need to be 'profiled'. This requires the Lyra Jukebox software to be installed, and a quick press of 'profile device contents', to ready your new tracks for selection – not quite as simple a process as some players.

There are also other frustrations with the PDP 2845: not only does the player take a few attempts to be recognised by a computer, but also navigation between menus and screens on the player itself is cumbersome. Furthermore, the recordable radio could only be tuned in steps of 0.2kHz.

Happily, this is a loud enough player, and has a decent sound. There are useful EQ options to select – we soon ditched the hollow-sounding 'flat' mode, and found the 'bass' option offers a more rounded sound. It lacks the depth of the best players, with a smooth bass work-out such as *Reason* from the new Nas album lacking bottom-end punch and clarity.

Overall, we enjoyed using the Lyra, but couldn't help feeling that other players left us with fonder memories.

The On The Road Price (OTR) includes the cost of delivery to the dealer's premises, number plates and VAT at 17.5%, along with Government road fund licence for 12 months, and DVLA vehicle first registration fee of £38. *£1,000 off and 3 years free servicing or 27,000 miles (whichever comes first) offer applies to purchases of the Lancer Evolution VIII, registered between 1st January and 31st March 2005. Offer excludes the Lancer Evolution VIII MR FQ-400. Terms & conditions apply. **The Fuel Consumption for the Evolution VIII 260 in MPG (ltrs/100km): Urban 18.3 (15.4), Extra Urban 34.0 (8.3), Combined 25.9 (10.9). CO2 emission 258g/km.**

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Price range £219-£252

SPECIFICATIONS	APPLE iPod 20GB	ARCHOS Gmini 400
Price	£219	£235
Capacity	20GB	20GB
Battery life	12hrs audio	10hrs audio, 5hrs video
File formats	AAC, Apple Lossless, MP3	MP3, WMA, WAV
Screen size	2in	2.2in
Screen resolution	160 x 128	220 x 176
Screen colour depth	65,000 colours	262,000 colours
Connections	USB 2.0	USB 2.0
Weight	158g	160g
Dimensions	10 x 6 x 1.5cm	6 x 11 x 2cm
HOW THEY RATED		
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★☆
Features	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Build	★★★★★	★★★★★
★ VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS	SONY NW-HD3	THOMSON Lyra PDP2845
Price	£219	£252
Capacity	20GB	40GB
Battery life	30hrs audio	12hrs approx
File formats	MP3, WMA, WAV, ATRAC, ATRAC3plus	MP3, MP3pro, WMA
Screen size	1.5in	2.5in
Screen resolution	N/A	N/A
Screen colour depth	N/A	N/A
Connections	USB 2.0	USB 2.0
Weight	130g	163g
Dimensions	6 x 9 x 1.5cm	8 x 7 x 2cm
HOW THEY RATED		
Sound	★★★★★	★★★☆☆
Features	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Build	★★★★★	★★★☆☆
★ VERDICT	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆

Apple iPod 20GB

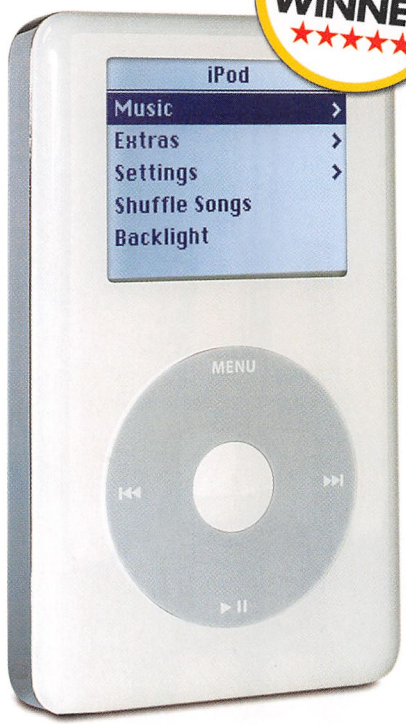
★★★★★ £219

AS THE POPULARITY of downloading music soars, so too does the choice of portable players. Additionally, they have now evolved to store and display pictures and video, as well as data files, while the quality of audio and video playback continues to improve. So, this was an ultra-competitive test, with great new players on show as the big guns pulled out all the stops. All these players are good, some are excellent – but the undeniable class of the iPod 20GB means it remains the player to beat. However, the Archos gives it plenty to think about.

The main thing that these portables all have in common, is the ability to play digital music. Quite simply, the iPod 20GB does the digital music experience from start to finish better than anything else available. The iTunes software remains the best music-organisation tool available – the process of transferring music to your player is fast and easy. The AAC format remains superior sonically to its rivals, while the Apple Lossless option for taking music from CDs is even better again.

Perhaps most importantly, the sound quality of the iPod – improved again in this latest incarnation – remains at the top of the class. We believe this must remain the most crucial aspect of these players. A smooth but weightier sound for more complex, bottom-end heavy tracks is apparent here, while the iPod also excels when dealing with more subtle tracks, offering impressive insight with vocals. Apple's 'click wheel' remains the king of controls, and the ease of use with which you can negotiate your catalogue of tunes makes a world of difference – no player here responds as quickly to instruction as the iPod.

However, if photo, video or data storage are important to you, then the latest Archos will do a great job. Make no mistake, you will be losing out in many areas – most notably sonic ability – but for less than £20 extra, the Gmini 400 offers astounding value and versatility, presented on a glorious colour screen.



It might not offer picture or video storage, but for music on the move the iPod 20GB is unbeatable

And what of the others? The new Sony player has a phenomenal battery life, quality sound and is no longer dependent on Sony's ATRAC file format, but just lacks the clarity and ease of use of many rivals. The Thomson is a decent player, but with so many options for buyers, it just doesn't quite have the flair or class to make it stand out in this already crowded market.

For now, with a couple of hundred quid at your disposal, we believe the iPod 20GB must remain the digital music player of choice.

PERFECT PARTNERS

PORTABLE HEADPHONES

Sennheiser PX100 £30

★★★★★ Awards 2004

A quality pair of headphones is a must for maximum portable pleasure, and why look further than our oft-recommended Award-winners from Sennheiser? Sadly, many of the freebie offerings in the world of MP3 players leave a lot to be desired (they are free, after all) so bite the bullet, forget how cool you think your white buds look, and get a pair of these.

PORTABLE STEREO SPEAKERS

Altec Lansing InMotion £110

★★★★★ Awards 2004

Another deserved Award-winner, now available in a whole family of options to broadcast your iPod's sounds to a wider audience than headphones allow. Altec Lansing's InMotion range is incredibly well-designed, as robust as portable kit needs to be, and perfect style partners for the iPod. They also sound surprisingly good, with more bass weight than most rivals. A 24-hour battery life, too.

An interconnect to

Chuck away that rubbish freebie cable supplied with your hi-fi – invest in the connection your kit deserves

Black Rhodium Melody £35

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

The Melody is the cheapest wire on test, but up against supplied cables it's a very worthwhile leap in sonic quality. It doesn't have the tautness of the Chord, but costs much less.

★★★★☆

The Chord Company Cobra 3 £60

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

The Cobra 3 is a worthy partner for Chord's Carnival Silver speaker cable. The tonal balance is even and delivery is very musical, while some initial brightness wears off quickly.

★★★★★

Kimber Kable Timbre £83

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

The Timbre feels a bit cheap, but ignore it at your peril. You get bags of impact and clarity, plus swift and musical delivery. It doesn't work well with bright-sounding kit , though.

★★★★★

QED Qunex Silver Spiral £90

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

A cable to put the bling into the back of your hi-fi, the QED has a sparkling delivery, and presents tunes with good space, detail and tight bass. It just lacks the finest dynamics.

★★★★☆

keep you hooked

AudioQuest Diamondback £95

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

This Chinese-built lead from the US maker is beautifully assembled and feels well worth the cash. However, it lacks the dynamics of the similarly priced QED, so loses two stars.

★★★☆☆

Wireworld Oasis 5 £100

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

This was our last hope of a five-star rating from our £90-£100 test trio. But though the Oasis 5 offers more space and greater dynamics than the AudioQuest, it lacks a touch of insight.

★★★★☆

van den Hul Integration £140

0.8M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

Those who like tunes to sound silky smooth should demo vdH's kit. The Integration maintains the Dutch maker's penchant for slightly rolled off treble and big, comforting bass.

★★★★☆

Ecosse The Symphony £244

1M STEREO INTERCONNECT

VERDICT

The most expensive cable on test should sound very special – and this authoritive and detailed wire is a real all-rounder. However, it's around 10 percent too pricey to get full marks.

★★★★☆

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If you've only ever heard budget or mid-priced kit, you won't believe your ears when you hear the best in this price range – musical heaven is truly just a step away

What's new?

Quite a lot. Myryad has a new muscle-bound integrated amplifier, which chucks out an impressive 150 watts per channel, while both Roksan and Quad have pre/power combinations that we've never tested before. Our last contender is an old favourite from Moon, called the I-3. This one-box is physically unchanged from our last review, but has dropped a staggering £200 in price. Now that's competitive pricing.

What do you get for your money?

Amps at this price level are built and finished to far higher standards than cheaper alternatives. Sound quality is significantly better, too – even when compared to over-achieving talents, such as Cyrus's £1200 8x/PSX-R combo. All the amplifiers in this *Group Test* have enough grunt to drive just about any price-compatible speaker you can find, so system-matching is more about getting the sonic flavour you want, rather than electrical compatibility.

Will it fit into your system?

All bar the Quad pre/power are line-level only, so if you own a turntable you'll need an outboard phono stage. Put aside a couple of hundred pounds for a good one. That apart, all the amplifiers here have enough inputs for most stereo set-ups and enough drive to play at high levels without a problem. As far as accommodating these amplifiers goes, only the Myryad is likely to cause a problem, because it's a beast of a machine that won't fit into many kit racks.

What are we looking for?

The best sound, pure and simple. We rate honesty very highly and want an amplifier that alters the original signal as little as possible. Within this, timing, dynamics and detail resolution are all important. Other priorities are build, finish and features. There's no point in spending two grand on an amplifier if it looks like it was made in someone's garden shed.

Our star ratings explained

Five stars mean that the product is a great all-rounder that'll work well in just about any system. A four-star rating signifies an amplifier that excels in some areas more than others. It's entirely possible that such a product can, in the right system, sound even better than a five-star alternative, so don't ignore these. As the stars drop lower we go from an average performer to one that disappoints. As for a one-star product, forget it!

For all our stereo amplifier verdicts, see our *Buyer's Guide* starting on p99 ···›

THE CONTENDERS

MOON I-3 £1595

This unit has been around for a while, so can it cut it with the latest amplifier contenders?

MYRYAD MXI2150 £1700

So is the Myryad a beast with a heart? Or will its sound prove as cumbersome as its overall bulk?

QUAD 99/909 £750/£900

We always have high hopes from Quad products, being one of the finer British hi-fi manufacturers

ROKSAN Caspian M-series pre/power £1250/£750

Another pre/power amplifier combination, the Roksan promises a real sonic adventure

Moon I-3 £1595

FOR
Creamy, smooth presentation; fine rhythmic performance; impressive build with excellent remote handset

AGAINST
Not the most neutral performer

VERDICT
This is a strong performer with a distinctive sound that's easy-going with strong dynamics – audition it!

★★★★☆

WE START WITH the cheapest amplifier in this test. Moon's I-3 used to cost £200 more, but a recent price drop has sharpened its competitive edge to a finer point.

The Moon is still no five-star contender, though it almost makes the top grade, missing out by the slimmest of margins. So let's get the negatives out of the way first: if you want neutrality and class-leading insight into the recording process, this isn't the amplifier for you. There are others in this test that'll serve you better if those are your priorities. However, accept the I-3's distinctive sonic flavour and you'll like it a lot.

This is a Frank Sinatra of an amp, one that puts smoothness and refinement high on its list of priorities. Prod it with harsh recordings or an aggressive source and it'll smile, producing an organic, full-bodied, soothing sound for your delight.

> "The Moon has an unusual blend of talents that should appeal to a wide range of people"

Don't go thinking that timing or dynamics have suffered for this easy-going attitude. Put on something hard-hitting – such as Eminem or Black Eyed Peas – and the Moon responds with agility and drive. It doesn't retrain dynamic excesses, delivering a fast-moving rhythm on tracks such as *Hey Mama* with real verve. Stereo imaging is well focused and expansive, producing a broad spread of sound from the likes of the *Gladiator* movie's beautifully recorded original soundtrack.

The I-3 looks and feels like a heavyweight contender, and the remote control's a beauty

The I-3's sound is good, and its build is even better. The amplifier feels like a quality item, and the metal-cased remote puts the efforts of the opposition to shame in terms of feel. If the cheapest contender in this test comes equipped with such a classy handset we don't understand why the rest serve up cheap-feeling plastic alternatives. Cutting costs is fine in the budget sector, but at this price level things should be different.

System-matching is a breeze, too. Most sources and speaker work well, though avoid any components that emphasise the Moon's already smooth nature – otherwise you'll end up with a system that'll make even Nirvana sound tame.

This fine amp might not be the best all-rounder in this *Group Test*, but its an unusual blend of talents should appeal strongly to many people. Four stars or not, give it a go.

Myryad MXI2150 £1700

FOR
Clarity, dynamics and control are all top class for the money

AGAINST
Massive size means that it's harder to accommodate than most rivals

VERDICT
It's worth looking past the MXI2150's bulky casework, because it sounds absolutely lovely – best in its class

★★★★★

THIS MYRYAD AMPLIFIER blurs the boundaries between integrated amplifiers and pre/power combinations. It comes in one box – so that makes it an integrated, but the preamplifier and power sections are totally separate and need to be connected with an external cable.

The company supplies short leads for the job, but for the best performance it's worth swapping these for a good set of interconnects. We tried Atlas's Voyager (£110 per terminated metre length), and were rewarded by great results – with the overall sound improving across the board.

Don't get the wrong idea. The MXI2150 doesn't need such help to compete with its rivals, because it has a formidable array of strengths straight out of the box. This integrated amp is a mightily impressive powerhouse that can bludgeon just about any price-compatible speaker into submission. Such reserves of power – this amplifier is rated at 150 watts per channel – mean that there's no holding back with the dynamic extremes of the *Gladiator* soundtrack, no hint of stress, and definitely no loss of overall control.

Listen to this electronic breeze block and there's a very real sense of honesty about its presentation. It simply reproduces whatever it is fed: if the source or recording is below par, then that's the way it'll sound. The MXI2150 isn't polite: it doesn't embellish or spice in any way, or even make a meal of things unnecessarily. That's not to say it's without character. Its presentation is a little forward in the treble, but a bit of sensible system-matching negates this becoming a problem, so we won't make much of it.

> "Listening to this electronic breeze block, you get a real sense of honesty about its presentation"

Its size might put some off the Myryad, though a quick listen reveals its awesome sound

However, we do have a greater concern, and that's to do with the physical aspects of this amplifier. It's massive – measuring 19 x 44 x 48cm (hwd) – and so won't fit into many equipment racks. The brick-like styling (if 'styling' is the right word to use) could be a major sticking pointed for some people.

Find some way around these issues, though – we hope you can – and the Myryad will treat you to a class-leading sonic performance that gets you incredibly close to the recording. Despite the appearances, we reckon this is superb buy.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

★★★★★

"A bar-raising effort from Wharfedale: these are ridiculously good speakers at this budget price level" - *October 2004 (Diamond 9.1)*

"Immediately apparent is the amount of weight and authority the subwoofer overwhelms you with." - *October 2004 (Diamond SW-150)*

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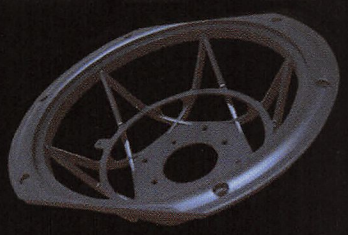

diamond 9

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Quad 99/909 £750/£900

FOR
Even-handed sonic delivery with strong dynamics and fine resolution; flexible preamp; good build; compact

AGAINST
Imprecise controls; display not clear

VERDICT
Minor ergonomic concerns aside, this is a class performer that'll perform superbly in a wide range of systems

★★★★★

SMALL AMP = small sound? Don't you believe it. This pint-size pairing delivers a super-size dollop of sound quality that's rivalled only by the overgrown Myryad.

If you play anything large-scale – say, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* – Quad's dynamic duo will take a firm grip of the partnering speakers and produce a sound with impressive authority. Much of this is down to a rich and weighty bass performance that goes very deep without losing grip. Fast-moving basslines, such as that from Eminem's *Mosh*, thunder along and give a firm foundation to a clear and full-bodied midrange. Outright clarity is good – impressive enough to make the rapper's rapid-fire ranting easy to follow. There's a strong sense that the amplifier isn't messing around too much with the signal. An even tonal balance and surefooted sense of timing complete a strong sonic cocktail.

> "Both these bits of kit use one-piece castings for their construction, giving a solid, high-quality feel"

A great sonic performance, but this amplifier has other strengths, too. Both units use one-piece castings for their casework, and this gives them a solid, quality feel nothing else in this test can match. The preamp is an ultra-flexible unit that features a variety of tone adjustments, including Quad's traditional tilt function: this pivots the tonal balance around the midrange, increasing bass while reducing treble or vice versa. This pairing is also the only one in this *Group Test* to feature a phono stage. Impressively, the unit can not only be switched between moving magnet and moving coil gain from the remote handset, but you can adjust cartridge-loading, too.

This pre/power combination offers an exceptional honest and revealing sound quality

The preamp is a bit quirky to use, though. The inputs marked CD and Tuner only apply to Quad components connected through Quadlink, which is a computer-style flat cable that carries music and command signals between components. If you use non-Quad 99 series units you'll need to connect through the auxiliary inputs. Some of the icons shown on the 99 preamp's display aren't easily understood, either, and its buttons feel imprecise.

Despite these shortcomings, this Quad pre/power combination is still one of the best at this price. Its even-handed nature and high levels of insight make it a star. Listen to it before you buy anything else.

Roksan Caspian M-series pre/power £1250/£750

FOR
Authoritative and smooth presentation; strong dynamics and good composure; solid build

AGAINST
Lacks the highest insight and agility

VERDICT
This is a good combo, but doesn't quite reach the sky-high standards the ingredients and price suggest

★★★★☆

THIS ONE SHOULD have been predictable. Take a class-leading preamplifier and partner it with a five-star power from the same brand and the result is... not what we expected. Don't get us wrong. This is a good combination – very good in fact – but it isn't the rip-roaring class champ it looks like on paper.

Why? Simply put, it doesn't get to the heart of a recording in the same way that the likes of the Myryad or Quad can. There isn't quite the clarity or resolution needed to top this *Group Test*. Chop and change the two halves of this pairing and the power amplifier turns out to be the weak link. It sounds a little thick, and lacks agility compared with the top performers in this *Group Test*.

You have to keep these criticisms in perspective, though. The power amplifier remains one of the best at its price, while the Roksan pairing still manages to be a formidable contender with enough talent to worry the class-leaders. Our (only slight) disappointment has more to do with knowing that the preamp is capable of sonic magic given a more talented partner.

> "Chop'n'change the two halves of this pairing and the power amplifier turns out to be the weak link"

Once properly warmed up, the Roksan combination has a refined and authoritative presentation that works well with all types of music. It has the subtlety and finesse to deal with small-scale classical, as well as the basic brutality to deliver hardcore hip-hop with the correct dose of attitude and amplitude.

A decent sound, but we can't help feeling the preamp isn't being pushed to its limits

The power amplifier might output 'just' 85 watts per channel – the lowest in this test – but you'd never guess it from the way it sounds. Eminem's *Encore* is pounded out with sledgehammer force, without any sacrifice to control or precision. Dynamics are strong and the amplifier never loses composure, even when pushed hard with the likes of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. The Roksan's tonal balance is a touch rich, but this merely adds solidity and body to the amp's presentation, rather than robbing it of excitement.

Add other factors – such as build, finish and a sensible feature list – to the plus points and this duo makes a strong case for itself. However, it's the priciest contender here and falls behind the very best when it comes to insight. That's why it loses a star.

1 Strongroom Studios. 2 Eric Clapton 2004 World Tour.
3 JBL Vertec System, Royal Albert Hall. 4 Football World Cup 2002

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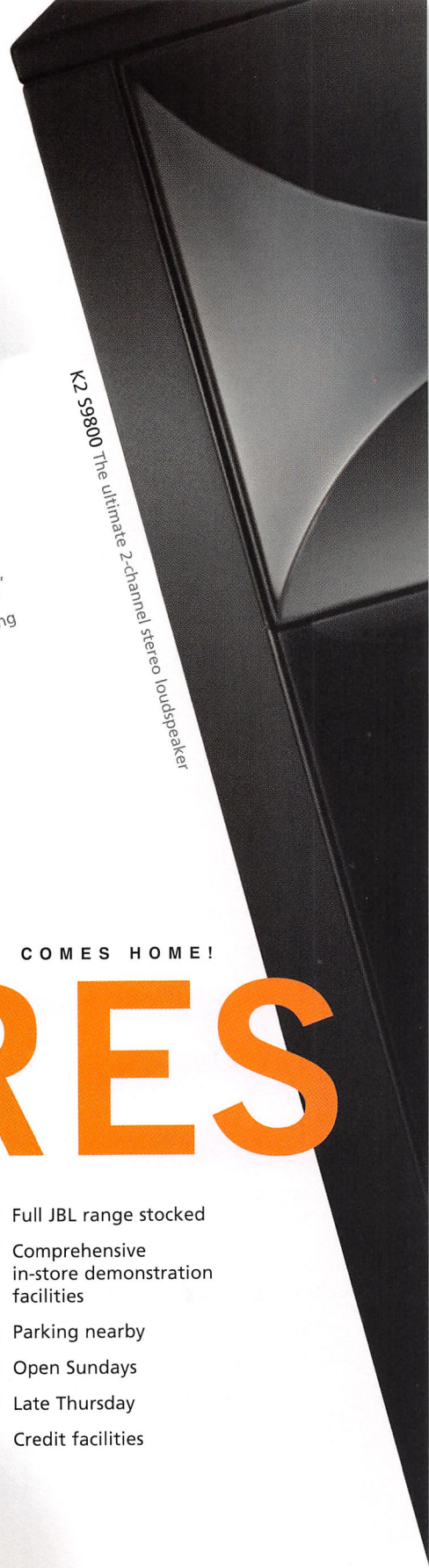

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Group Test WINNER
STEREO AMPLIFIERS

Myryad MXI2150
★★★★★ £1700

We were hugely impressed when we tested the MXI2150 in our *First Tests* section last month, and our initial impressions have been fully justified here

EVERY AMP IN this test is a very fine product. We can't imagine anyone buying one of these and being anything less than thoroughly impressed.

Having said that, it's in our nature to establish a definite pecking order, particularly when price comes into the equation. Perhaps surprisingly, the first to be knocked out is the Roksan Caspian M-series pre/power amp combination, which does possess a good dose of the brand's traditional strengths, but fails to quite set our world alight. It doesn't manage to get out of the music's way, and so fails to match the class-leaders in the way they have the ability to get straight to the heart of a recording.

This combination from Roksan isn't way off target, though, so we suspect a little fine-tuning on the power amplifier – definitely the weaker link in the audio chain – could see the pairing challenge for top honours in the future. Until then, though, the compromised performance and highish price will count against it.

Next up is the extremely likeable Moon I-3. This is competitively priced and delivers a smooth and seductive presentation. It's got bite as well, so works well with all types of music. Factor-in the pleasing build and elegant styling, and it's easy to understand this amplifier's appeal. We recommend an audition , because there's a good chance it'll impress you. However, when judged by the highest standards we don't think it can quite scale the sonic peaks of the two class leaders. Quad's 99/909 combination comes close to pleasing all the people all the time. It's a manageable size, is a good-looking piece of kit and – most importantly – it sounds great. We have a couple of minor complaints about the ergonomics – such as the imprecise buttons and the lack of clarity to the display – but these aren't enough to dent our enthusiasm for this pre/power pairing, which sounds magnificent whatever you throw at it.

However, top honours belong to Myryad's chunky MXI2150. This is no looker and it's about as big an integrated amplifier as we've come across. Those points aside, this is a real honey of a product. It has a blend of sonic talents that lift it well above the norm and allow it to deeply worry just about any amplifier from three grand downward. If that sounds like a bargain, then you'd be right.

Price range
£1595-£2000

SPECIFICATIONS	Moon I-3	Myryad MXI2150
Price	£1595	£1700
Type	Integrated	Integrated
Inputs	6 line level	6 line level
Tape loops	1	2
Phono stage	No	No
Preamp output	Yes	Yes
Headphone	No	No
Remote control	Yes	Yes
Power output	100w/channel	150w/channel
Dimensions (hwd)	8x43x39cm	19x44x48cm
Weight	10kg	22kg
HOW THEY RATED		
Sound	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Build	★★★★☆	★★★★☆
Features	★★★☆☆	★★★☆☆
★ VERDICT	★★★★☆	★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS	Quad 99/909	Roksan Casp. M-series
Price	£1650	£2000
Type	Pre/power	Pre/power
Inputs	3 line, 2 Quadlink	5 line level
Tape loops	1	1
Phono stage	Yes	No
Preamp output	Yes	3
Headphone	No	No
Remote control	Yes	Yes
Power output	140w/channel	85w/channel
Dimensions (hwd)	7x32x31/14x32x24	7x43x33cm (x2)
Weight	4kg/12kg	12kg/10kg
HOW THEY RATED		
Sound	★★★★★	★★★☆☆
Build	★★★★☆	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★	★★★☆☆
★ VERDICT	★★★★★	★★★★☆

PERFECT PARTNERS

CD PLAYER
Naim CD5x £1450
★★★★★ December 2004
This CD player has all the dynamics and timing the brand is known for, but works well in a wide range of systems, too. The CD5X is a superbly built, revealing and involving machine.

STEREO SPEAKERS
Spendor S8e £1895
★★★★★ Awards 2004
The Spendors offer a fluid, informative sound, which stay very faithful to the original recording. The kind of speakers that don't impress immediately on a short demo, but reward you immensely over a lifetime.

EQUIPMENT RACK
Clearlight Aspekt £550
★★★★★
March 2002
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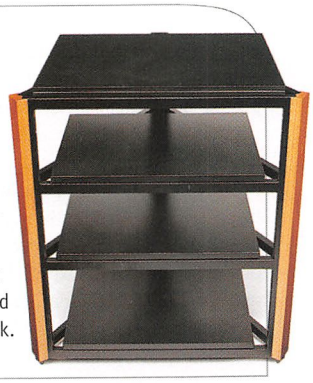


We tested with **CD players** Krell KAV-280cd; Naim CDS3/XPS2; **speakers** PMC IB2; Wilson Benesch Discovery; Dynaudio Audience 52SE; **cables & interconnects** Atlas and QED

A dynamic new Chapter

Read all about it – this £10K amplifier combination challenges the best of the big-name brands

Chapter Preface/Two + Stereo £4300/£5500

PRE/POWER AMPLIFIER

FOR

An ultra-precise and extremely natural presentation; excellent dynamics and fine timing; top-class build quality

AGAINST

Remote control buttons are somewhat imprecise; the preamplifier's control software could be slicker

VERDICT

This is a fantastic amplifier that sets sky-high standards: the established high-end manufacturers should fret

★★★★★

CHAPTER? NEVER HEARD of them? That's understandable, as the company is only six years old and over much of that time has just made one product: the power amplifier on test here. Five and a half grand products from new manufacturers rarely make any impact outside a small select group of high-end junkies.

The recent arrival of the Preface preamp completes Chapter's first pre/power combination, and on the evidence of our review sample, the company is capable of great things.

The basic outline is as follows: the preamp is a remote-operated line level unit with the option of balanced and unbalanced connections. The power amp looks unchanged, but much work has been done to the internals: it now uses a Class D output stage and produces an impressive 300w per channel. Other highlights include a switch-mode power supply, instead of the more usual mains transformer/smoothing capacitor arrangement.

Build quality is excellent – this pairing is a match for any of the established high-end firms in this respect, and trumps most with a metal remote that oozes class in a way that most rivals can't match.

The preamp uses sophisticated control software that can rename inputs, as well as change the output phase and overall gain. It can even switch between unbalanced and balanced outputs. The power amp's gain can also be switched: this rare but useful feature ensures both components will work well in a wide range of systems.

However, this pairing sounds so good together that we don't see many people mixing and matching. There's a breathtakingly clean and transparent sound that's hard to better regardless of price.

If you want an instantly exciting or entertaining amplifier, look elsewhere. The Chapter simply accepts the signal from the source and makes it louder without adding or subtracting. If a recording is bold, rich or compressed, then that's what you'll get from your speakers. But given a recording of suitable quality – try Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* or Massive Attack's *Angel* – this combination will reward you with a crystal clear view of the music.

> "Those frequency extremes merge so completely that it's hard to discuss treble or bass as separate entities"

Every note is reproduced with class-leading precision, no matter how complex the piece of music. It's rare indeed to come across an amp that reproduces the seismic dynamic shifts of the Stravinsky piece at high levels without hardening up or rounding off the crescendos. The timing is superbly sure-footed, too.

A 300-watt power output might suggests that this amp will have all the subtlety of a steamroller, but most of the time this combination does not flaunt its power. If you listen to small-scale jazz – such as Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* or the more low-key songs from Alicia Keys' debut set – then the Chapter stuns with its agility and focus. However, once the music demands muscle this pre/power delivers it with class-leading control and resolution. The tonal balance is neutral with the frequency extremes merging so completely with the midrange that it becomes hard to talk about bass and treble as separate entities. That really is a special quality.

Now, this amp won't be perfect for everyone, even you do have 10K to spend. The lack of inherent colour won't please those who expect every recording to sound great, even those that are flawed in some way. Some might find the Chapter's honesty painful, even if we admire it.

Less easy to live with are the unresponsive buttons on the remote and the lack of precision when it comes to selecting a source from the front panel control. The control knob itself feels fine, but the software could do with a little fine-tuning.

On a short demo, the pairing's lack of artifice might not be as impressive as the more vivid presentation that you're inundated with by many of its rivals. And the 'showy' blue LEDs lead you to suspect that more thought has been spent on looks than performance. However, when it comes to sound quality, little else at this price can do better. Chapter isn't a big name in high-end audio, but with products like these, it will be.

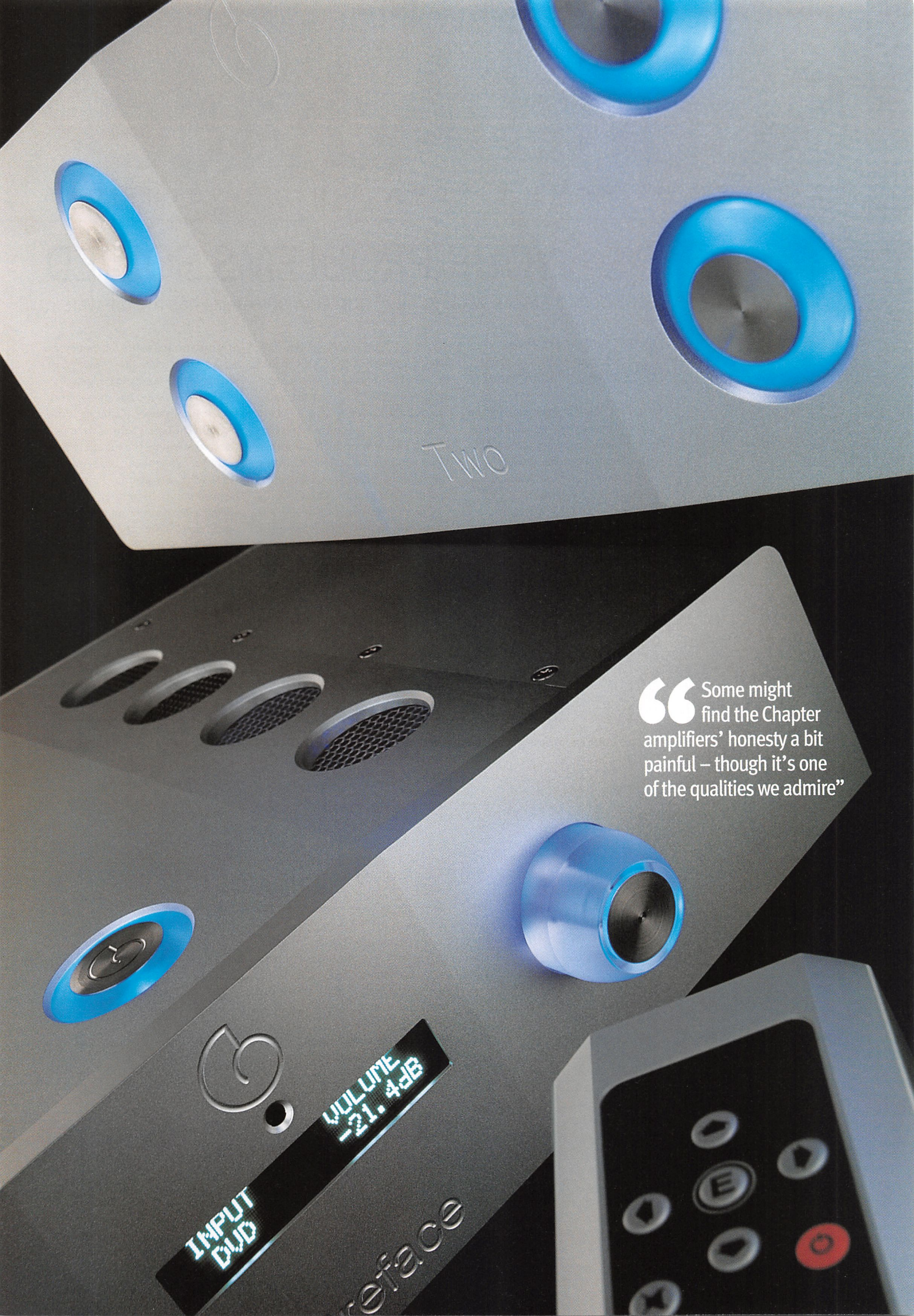
WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?

Both components feature touch-sensitive power switches. These look funky, but aren't particularly positive in use. They glow red on standby.

The Two + power amplifier is equipped with a large heatsink area. These fins ensure the amplifier stays cool even when working at high volumes.

TECH SPECS

PREFACE PREAMP
INPUTS 6 line level
PHONO STAGE No
OUTPUTS RCA, balanced XLR
REMOTE CONTROL Yes
HEADPHONE OUTPUT No
TWO+ POWER AMPLIFIER
POWER OUTPUT 300 watts per channel
INPUTS RCA, balanced XLR
OUTPUTS Multiway binding posts



“Some might find the Chapter amplifiers’ honesty a bit painful – though it’s one of the qualities we admire”

Sound Advice

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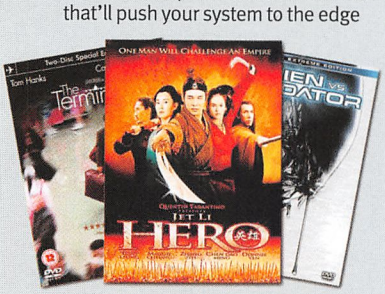

Q&A YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

Confused? Not sure what to buy? Our team of experts has the answers...

Which is the best tuner to buy for under three hundred quid?

PROBLEM ···› I was hoping you might be able to point me in the right direction as to what tuner I should buy that would go best with my current separates? I have a Roksan Kandy KA1 amp and Kandy KC 1 CD player with B&W CM2 speakers, and both bits of kit are on Atacama stands. I have a budget that only extends as far as £300.
J M Hayley, via email

WE SAY ···› Don't worry about only having a budget of £300. This should be more than enough to secure yourself a top tuner. And by tuner, we're assuming that you're after a hybrid model. This will combine the reception of FM, MW and DAB stations. Consequently, you'll receive all the digital-only channels on offer, such as Radio One Xtra and Capital Gold.

Our current tuner of choice has to be Sony's ST-SDB900 (November 2004, p13). It has been specially tuned for the British market and offers stunning value for money: at £225, you'll even have plenty of change from your £300 budget.

The ST-SDB900 has managed to knock our previous champ, Pure Digital's DRX-702ES, from the top of the tree, winning the tuner Product of the Year gong at our 2004 Awards. One word of warning, however – be sure you're in an area that has adequate DAB reception. It might be worth checking out the BBC website at *www.bbc.co.uk/radio* to find out the quality of coverage in your area.

That red badge means Sony's latest tuner has been sonically tweaked for the UK market – whatever the engineers did, it worked!

Firm up your budget before you spend

SYSTEM ···› Technics SL-P6070A CD player, NAD 302 amplifier, Mission 771e loudspeakers, Kudos 50 stands, CableTalk Talk 3, DNM Reson interconnect
PROBLEM ···› I'm considering upgrading my rather tired system, but I'm not sure which combination to choose – any advice would be gratefully received. I'm considering the Roksan Kandy MkIII, Cyrus 8vs or AVI Lab Series amplifiers, Roksan Kandy MkIII or Cyrus CD8x CD players, and Quad 11L speakers. My room is 3m x 5m, I don't think the speakers should be any larger.
Mick Cross, Portsmouth

WE SAY ···› That's quite a spread of prices you're considering, Mick – combinations of the equipment you're considering could cost you from £1570 to £2800, so you might want to firm up your budget a little.

As you know, we're fans of each and every piece of equipment you've mentioned – the way they perform alongside each other will be the clincher here. We'd suggest that the two Cyrus boxes offer most in terms of quality per pound, though the Roksan combination is probably the best match – in relative spend terms – for the Quad speakers.

If you are thinking of pushing the boat out and spending on the Cyrus or AVI equipment, they really demand a speaker even more capable than the Quads – consider the Dynaudio Audience 52 standmounters, which aren't much bigger than the 11Ls. And if you're determined to have a real splurge, the addition of a Cyrus PSX-R power supply to each of the Cyrus components will move the performance on to a level where even more expensive speakers would be justified. It's a slippery slope, so the first thing you need to do is decided exactly how much money you're prepared to throw at this scheme.

Dynaudio's Audience 52 standmounts are a step up from the impressive Quads

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AT YOUR SERVICE

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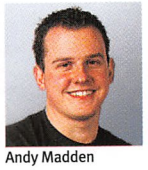

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The best choice for some plasma magic

PROBLEM ···› Where I live my only reliable source of AV information is through What Hi-Fi Sound and Vision magazine. After plenty of research I was 48 hours away from buying the Pioneer PDP-435FDE plasma screen... until I read the three-star review in your October 2004 issue. Now I'm not so sure. Is the earlier reviewed five-star PDP-434HDE, which is still available over here, a better buy? I want a screen with a digital video input, so are there any other alternatives?
John Taylor, Bangkok

WE SAY ···› Despite several other internal enhancements over the outgoing PDP-434HDE – including Direct Colour Filter technology, which replaces the older model's glass outer filter screen with a lighter plastic film – we didn't think the PDP-435FDE's picture was as good as the model it replaced. The biggest problem was a grainy picture.

However, only last month, we tested another version of Pioneer's 43in plasma – the PDP-435XDE – alongside our flatscreen plasma Award-winner, the TH-42PE30B from Panasonic and models from Sony and Toshiba.

It was a close race, but the new Pioneer pipped the Panasonic TV in this four-way *Group Test*. The Panasonic is a great television, no doubt about that, but we reckon its pictures are hindered by its lack of an HDMI all-digital input.

The Pioneer PDP-435XDE is our current favourite 43in plasma

We were a little surprised by this result, because Pioneer claims that the latest winning plasma uses the same panel as the model we only gave three stars to. On paper, the new set differs only in the make-up of the receiver box, which houses the connections and the tuners. Whatever, we stand by our tests, but the key point is that the new Pioneer PDP-435XDE is the one to go for.

This fine 43in set is a fantastic buy: full-range connectivity includes HDMI and component inputs; 1024 x 768 screen resolution means it's High-Definition television compatible; while pictures via a DVD play with a digital output are the best we've ever seen from a plasma of this size. It sounds like you are planning to use a suitably equipped DVD player, so this is the plasma set for you.

I need a DVD player that plays music well, plus a plasma TV set

PROBLEM ···› I'm after a plasma TV with at least a 42in screen, and a DVD player – both with a digital video connection such as HDMI or DVI. DVD performance is the priority (not off-air TV) and I'll also play music through the DVD player. I have £10K to spend.
David Firth, via email

WE SAY ···› You're right to go for a plasma with a digital input, and (as we describe above) the Pioneer PDP-435XDE is our current fave. However, with your budget you can afford the PDP-505XDE 50-incher, which has an HDMI input and an impressive 1280 x 768 resolution. We haven't yet reviewed this monster screen, but it should exhibit similar picture quality to its five-star rated 43in brother, which is to say very good indeed.

There aren't many DVD players that are as adept at playing music as they are movies, but Arcam's DV79 is one of a rare breed. It also has an HDMI output that's able to extract the best from the Pioneer plasma.

The PDP-505XDE comes in at £6000, while the Arcam DV79 DVD player costs £1000, leaving you plenty of change from your budget to splash out on your sound system if you feel the urge in the near future.

Arcam's DV79 is a multi-talented unit, which plays CDs very musically for a DVD player, and has an HDMI all-digital output, too

FAQs
THIS MONTH'S HOT TOPIC EXPLAINED

How do I get the absolute best from my record player?

There are a few basic rules to follow to get the best from a turntable. First, place it as far from the speakers as possible. Record players make a sound because their cartridge tracks the minute indentations in the vinyl's groove. Any disturbance to the deck – such as room vibrations caused by the sound coming out of the speakers or footfalls – spoils the results. Also, ensure the deck is level on the equipment support. If it isn't, the cartridge won't track the groove evenly.

What else do I have to do?

The next step is to make sure the arm and cartridge are set up properly. Most decks come supplied with an arm, so all you have to do is make sure it's fitted securely to the plinth. Once the cartridge is mounted, check the arm is parallel to the plinth surface with the cartridge sitting on a record. Some cartridges sound better with the arm slightly non-parallel, but most perform best with it straight. Get this wrong and the tonal balance and clarity suffers.

Stay on the right track

The last step is to set up the cartridge properly. Tracking weight and bias are important. Tracking weight is the adjustment that sets the amount of downward force on the cartridge. Start by setting this to the cartridge manufacturer's recommendations, but feel free to experiment as you can sometimes get better results. Too high and the bass dominates, making it sound ponderous. Too low and it's edgy and insubstantial.

Bias is a sideways force applied by the arm to balance the inward pull of the record groove. Sort this and the stylus will sit squarely in the groove and the channel balance will be spot-on. Finally, make sure that the cartridge is positioned properly in the tonearm headshell. Most deck manufacturers supply an alignment gauge. Take the time to get this right as it has a major influence on how much distortion your deck produces. You might have to reset the tracking weight after doing this, because altering the cartridge position changes the tracking force.

ECOSSE
REFERENCE CABLE

CS 2.3
"You won't do better than this corker of a speaker cable from yep...you guessed - it Ecosse" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

The CONDUCTOR CA 1
"...this is a great cable for the money" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

The LEGEND
"no nonsense incredible sound...against high-end interconnects at twice the price it stands out as good value for money" HI-FI NEWS 2002

ES 2.3
"...make no mistake ES 2.3/CS 2.15 is superb" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

"a fine audiophile sound that is clean as a whistle " HI-FI WORLD 2002

MS 2.3
"...they communicate a room-filling sound that few cables at this price - or any price manage" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

The PRODUCER
"at this price you won't get a better digital lead" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

The MAESTRO MA 2
"sonically they amaze, high end owners take note" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

The COMPOSER
"easily our cable king...it's hard to believe the price tag" WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
ACCESSORIES
ATACAMA EQUINOX RANGE

when design matters.....

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Two readers on the subject of cables...

SYSTEM ···› Cambridge Audio Azur 640C CD player, Cambridge Audio Azur 640T tuner, Cambridge Audio Azur 640A integrated amplifier, Monitor Audio Bronze B2 speakers
PROBLEM ···› I'm thinking about buying some specialist mains cables for my system, but I don't know where to start or how much to spend. Will such cables really make a significant difference?
Peter Fletcher, via email

PROBLEM ···› I've been a reader (and more recently a subscriber) of WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION for a while now, and it sometimes makes me cringe seeing the prices of some cables that are recommended purchases. It's especially bad when you see that many of these cables/interconnects are portraying such things as oxygen-free copper as the ultimate in quality, when it's not the case.

In my opinion, £65 for a metre of cable is excessive. Surely even for a separates system costing a few thousand pounds, an interconnect costing a mere £20 would suffice?

I can certainly see the benefits in screening, and that's a definite noticeable improvement in quality of audio, but can you explain the benefits of oxygen-free copper over conventional cabling? What benefits justify these prices?
Dave Parker, Huddersfield

WE SAY ···› These two letters are fairly representative of people's attitudes to hi-fi cables: some readers, such as Peter, ask us for a recommendation, but still wonder aloud whether it's a worthwhile upgrade or not. Others, such as Dave, are sceptical enough to feel the need to write to us and vent some spleen on the matter.

Russ Andrews Classic PowerKord, costing £75, can be a worthwhile improvement

We at WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION are a naturally sceptical bunch – we don't believe press releases, manufacturers' claims or old wives' tale. What we do is compare systems that use different products to see if one sounds better than the other. And all our experience points to the fact that the same system can sound significantly better with different loudspeaker cables, interconnects or mains cables.

We're consistently amazed at the difference a decent set of interconnects or a good bundle of speaker cable makes. Whether it's due to oxygen-free copper or ancient witches spells, we don't know and don't really care – it's the results we're judging.

Can we change your opinion, Dave? We can try, but the best course of action is for you to head down to a reputable dealer and make up your own mind. Ask to demo a selection of wires and say what you hear – and be sure to let us know how you get on.

As for your mains leads, Peter, the size of the improvement depends on the quality of the mains in your house. In most cases replacing the standard supplied lead with a specialist cable makes the equipment sound more refined, full-bodied and improves dynamics. We suggest you buy just one cable first: for your system we suggest something like Merlin's Tarantula (£50) or if you can stretch to it Russ Andrews Classic PowerKord (£75). Use it on the CD player first. If you notice a significant improvement (which we think you will) then buy addition leads for the amp and tuner as funds allow. Try to stick with the same manufacturer, as this usually gives the best results.

How do I improve my home cinema with a strictly limited budget?

SYSTEM ···› Pioneer DV-535 DVD player, Yamaha DSP-A5 multichannel amplifier, Energy Take 5 speakers
PROBLEM ···› My question is simple: how can I achieve a significant improvement without spending a fortune? Your Denon Award-winners, the AVR-2805 and the DVD-2910, both sound great in your reviews and are within my price range, but would they be that much of an improvement over what I already have? And would I need to change my loudspeakers too?
Chris Thornton, via email

WE SAY ···› We think you've got this the wrong way round. In our opinion the weakest part of your current set-up is the speaker package. Energy's Take 5 was good in its day, but would be outclassed by the likes of Epos's sub-£1000 ELS3 5.1 combination or Acoustic Energy's Evo 3B package. Once you've upgraded the speakers then take a look at the amplifier. You're right in looking at Denon's AVR-2805 (£700), but don't ignore Yamaha's RXV-1500 (also £700) as it's good value and sounds lovely, too. Don't worry about changing your Pioneer DVD player just yet. It's a solid machine and so is worth keeping for a little while longer.

Epos' ELS3 5.1 multichannel speaker package is classy kit

RATED!
OUR TOP FIVE LCD TELEVISION CHOICES

Toshiba 17WLT46B
£700 ★★★★☆ December 2004
Winner of December's *Supertest*, this 17in Tosh is pricey, but stylish and effective – perfect for the kids.

Sharp LC-20S1E
£1050 ★★★★★ Awards 2004
This 20in Sharp is our Award-winning mini-flatscreen. Good contrast and detail make it a superb LCD option.

Panasonic TX-26LXD1
£2300 ★★★★★ Awards 2004
Widescreen 26in picture and a digital tuner, along with its class-leading images contributed to its 2004 Award.

Philips 32PF9986
£99 ★★★★★ December 2004
The first 32in LCD to win an Award (beating the plasmas). Its state-of-the-art spec and looks astound.

Loewe Xelos SL 37HD/DR+
£4299 ★★★★☆ January 2005
Plasmas are cheaper at this price, but with a built-in hard disk and fine picture, if money's no object...

Sound Advice

HOME CINEMA BUILDER

OUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GREAT HOME CINEMA

STAGE ONE

Choose electronics that best suit your needs

HOME CINEMA SYSTEMS come in three types. Your budget will play a big part in deciding what you buy, but it's also worth thinking about what you need your system to do, both now and in the future. A cheap buy might seem like great value, but it could turn out to be a false economy in years to come.

Home cinema in a box
FROM £200

For Affordable and convenient; compact; capable of good results; usually well-equipped with extras
Against Small speakers and low power, so not ideal for bigger rooms; these systems can frequently sound poor with music
Verdict These are popular and sensible starter systems that can offer a lot for your money

Virtual home cinema
FROM £300

For No rear speakers, so your system is both easy to install and neater; convenience of a single purchase
Against The amount of surround-sound performance you get is usually fairly limited; no long-term upgrade path
Verdict A great way to keep your living room looking smart, but enthusiasts should ensure they consider true surround sound, too

Separates home cinema
FROM £750

For Flexible, high-quality sound and vision; easy to improve over time as your budget and needs allow
Against Higher initial cost of ownership; bigger; usually more complex to set up
Verdict Requires more effort and outlay from you, but delivers greater rewards in return. You'll get a system that'll last for years, too

STAGE TWO

Decide on the size and type of screen you want

IF YOU ALREADY have a decent television, you might not even need to replace it, which could be a useful way of trimming your budget. On the other hand, with prices falling every month, why not go for a bigger, better picture? We recommend 28in as the minimum screen size for a home cinema set-up, which means you've got four big-screen choices.

Conventional television
FROM £300

For Great value and very high quality: you get a lot of screen size for your cash when compared to plasmas
Against Depth: conventional TVs intrude into your room, and the bigger your TV, the more the intrusion
Verdict Still the best combination of quality and performance for your money, and capable of great results

LCD television
FROM £2000

For Light, slim, easy to hang on the wall, and the best of these slimline televisions are capable of good picture performance
Against Not every set is as good as it should be for image quality; not cheap, at least not for larger screens
Verdict A great way to get a slim television that you can put anywhere. Smaller screens cost much less: you can get a 14in LCD for around £350

Plasma television
FROM £2500

For Big screen size, increasingly impressive picture quality; terrific with DVD movies
Against Not cheap; more affordable models can have poor pictures
Verdict Modern plasmas can deliver sensational image quality, and offer performance, size and styling to die for

Projector
FROM £1000

For There's no bigger screen available for your cash. Even a cheap projector will throw an 8ft picture on your wall
Against You must use a projector in a dark room to get the best results
Verdict More of an enthusiast's choice, but good value, and terrific for DVD viewing

STAGE THREE

Follow our Golden Rules when you go shopping

WE PRIDE OURSELVES on offering Britain's best buying advice, but you should treat our product reviews as just that: advice, not orders. In the end, there's no substitute for listening and looking at a product in a dealership. Only there will you be able to try before you buy. Still, it's best to go shopping forearmed: that way you can make a more informed buying decision.

Time spent on research will pay huge dividends

Paper specs tell only half the story: it's sound and vision quality that counts. Time spent reading up will help you build a better system, and save cash, too.

Plan what you need before you hit the high street

Do you want your system to be able to play music well? Do you want five, six or seven speakers? Resolve these issues before you head to the shops. Sure, you can be swayed into buying more kit by a good salesperson and an impressive demo, but if you know what to ask before you walk in the shop, you'll stand a better chance of coming home happy.

Insist on a full demo of the kit

You wouldn't buy a new car without a test drive. The same is true for audio and video. One person's nirvana is another's nightmare. Demo the system in a listening room rather than on the shop floor. If you can't have a demo there and then, make an appointment for one, and come back on that date. Alternatively, you could try to arrange a home demo with your dealer.

Take along your favourite film to compare systems

Play something you know, and ensure you watch analogue and digital TV: DVD signals can often flatter a TV's abilities.

Compare prices and service

Search around, compare prices from other suppliers, and haggle: it's a buyer's market. Don't always opt for the cheapest price, as some online deals may offer little by way of after-sales customer support.

STAGE FOUR

Position your new purchases properly

IT DOESN'T MATTER how much you spend: if you don't put your kit in the right places, you could well be disappointed with the sound and vision results of your investment. It's also important that you sit in the right place to make the most of your screen: use our size finder at the bottom of the page to select the correct display size for your room.

Screens

Avoid placing your TV in front of a window: it'll strain your eyes. Equally, make sure no internal lights, such as table lamps, shine on to the screen of the TV set.

Amplifiers and receivers

Make sure you don't obscure the cooling vents on top of an amplifier. A lot of heat is emitted via these grilles, so it's essential that it's allowed to escape properly.

DVD players

Put your player on the most level surface you can find. This will help you to get the best possible picture and sound. Avoid stacking it on other kit, too: heat (from amplifiers) can harm performance.

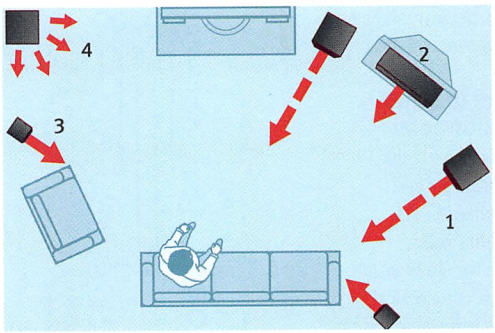
Speakers

Front speakers (1) work best if they're level with the TV. Avoid getting each speaker too close to the screen, although this is less important with slimscreen sets.

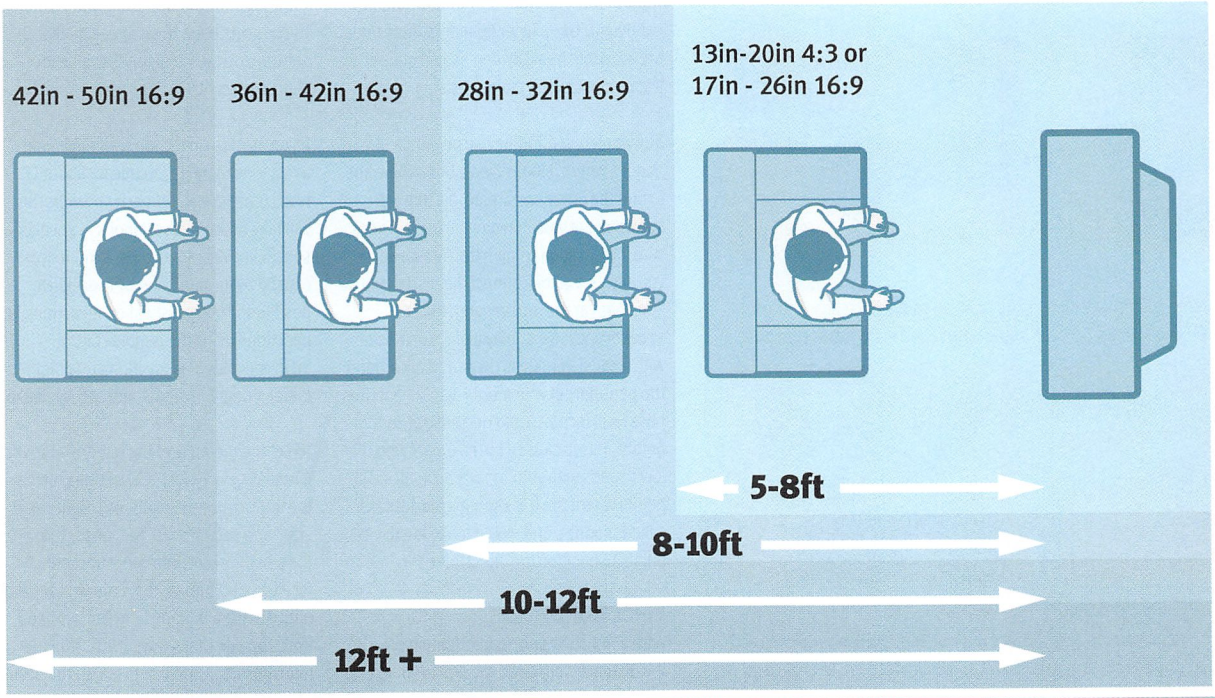
The **centre speaker** (2) should be placed below a TV, if you can. Use a kit rack if at all possible. It's best to try to support your speaker with Blu-tack, which will help to control cabinet resonations.

Rear speakers (3) should be mounted high on your wall – tilt them downwards and inwards if possible. Use tall stands if you don't want to fix speakers to your wall.

A **subwoofer** (4) can be positioned almost anywhere in your room. Put it in a corner if you want to get even more bass, or move it into the room to reduce boom, as needed.



This is only one possible way to lay out your kit, but it's fairly typical for many rooms. If you add a sixth speaker for 6.1 sound, put it in the far corner of the room, directly facing the TV set.



HOW TO FIND THE IDEAL TV SCREEN SIZE

The bigger the size of screen you use, the more cinematic your viewing. We've based our screen size finder on typical television sizes, running from 13in LCD portable to 50in plasma. So, to find your ideal screen (which is based on a suggested minimum viewing distance between your seat and your screen), follow our screen size finder, left.

STAGE FIVE

Make the right connections between all items of kit

YOU CAN USE 'freebie' wires to get your system working, but better-quality wires will produce better performance. These needn't be too expensive: we recommend a total spend of about 10 percent of your whole system's budget on cabling. Don't be tempted to skimp here: wires make a huge difference.

DVD player to screen

Most TVs use RGB Scart, so it's a simple plug'n'play connection. However, LCD, plasma and projector displays also offer component video, a three-cable connector that can also send progressive-scan pictures. If this option is available, go for it

DVD player to surround amplifier or receiver

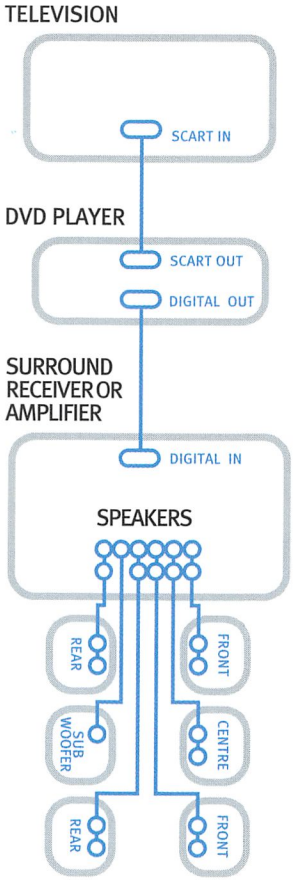
This needs a digital cable, either an optical or coaxial variety. For DVD-Audio and SACD, you'll need to use an additional set of six phono-type analogue connectors

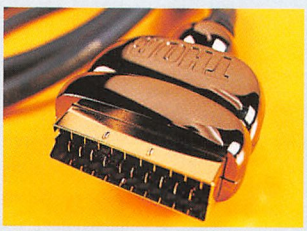
Amplifier/receiver to surround speaker package

You'll need a lot of speaker cable here. Make sure you use the same quality of cable throughout your system, because this helps create a more convincing surround effect

Amplifier/receiver to active (self-powered) subwoofer

This needs a phono interconnect cable. Often, a long cable comes in the box. Don't forget that your subwoofer will need to be plugged into the mains, as well. Keep mains cabling away from the interconnect, as it can pick up electrical hum. Screened cables guard against this





SCART
Capable of carrying stereo sound and up to RGB-quality video signals

S-VIDEO
Still used on some VCRs, satellite and cable boxes, and also games consoles

COMPONENT
The premium analogue connector for DVD, though it doesn't carry sound

COAXIAL
Our preferred method for transferring digital audio signals from DVD players

STAGE SIX

Tweak your system to get the maximum from it

IF YOU REALLY want to make the most of what your system can do, try some or all of these fine-tuning tweaks. Most of them are simpler and easier to do than you might think. We understand not everyone has loads of time to spare: if that's the case, concentrate on the picture tweaks first.

Picture

If you have a widescreen TV, ensure you set the video aspect ratio of your DVD player to 16:9. This will provide a properly formatted picture that cracks the electronic 'anamorphic' code buried in most DVD discs. This both increases the size of the picture and enhances its resolution

Make sure you select the RGB video output option for your Scart connector. If your TV has only one RGB-enabled Scart input, ensure you plug the DVD player into this socket. Avoid routing your DVD player's picture signal through other components if you can. If you want to use component video instead of the RGB Scart, ensure you've turned the RGB option to 'off' in your player's set-up menus

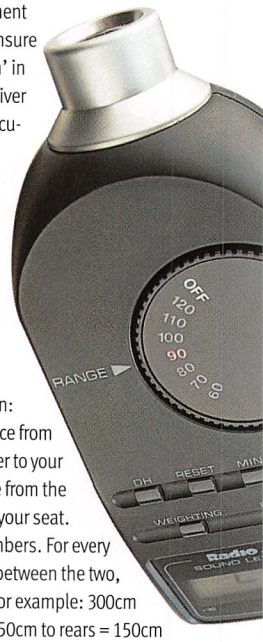
Speakers

Try to get the front three speakers on a similar plane, both horizontally and vertically. Avoid a situation where the centre speaker is much lower or higher than its siblings, and try to keep all three in roughly the same line. The centre-rear speaker can be positioned some way behind your other rear speakers, since this will add to the 'depth effect' of your surround system. Each speaker works best if it's accurately 'toed in' towards your seated position, at ear height. Use a laser pointer (simple ones are available from DIY and gadget shops) if you want to get it really precise

Subwoofer positioning can be a case of 'it goes where it looks best', but if you want to find the optimum site, try placing the subwoofer at your listening position. Then wire it up to something – the AV receiver if you wish – and disconnect the rest of your speakers (at the receiver end, not the speaker end). Next, play a piece of music with a consistent bass rhythm. Walk around the periphery of your room – you'll hear the bass level increase and decrease at certain points. This is caused by the interaction of low sounds with your room's acoustics. The points where the bass sounds loudest are called 'nodes', and would make ideal points to position the subwoofer

Electronics

With a tape measure to hand, measure the distance from each speaker to your seat, and enter those figures into the 'delay' adjustment options. This will ensure the surround 'brain' in your amplifier, receiver or processor can accurately compensate for the size of your room. If the delay options are presented in milliseconds (ms) of delay rather than in distances, then you can use the following calculation: measure the distance from the front-left speaker to your seat. Then measure from the left-rear speaker to your seat. You'll have two numbers. For every 30cm of difference between the two, add 1ms of delay. For example: 300cm to front speakers, 150cm to rears = 150cm difference, so 5ms of delay is necessary



Now configure the surround receiver. First, configure the speaker sizes. Select large or small as reflects the speakers you've got (most bookshelf designs are small), and adjust the crossover point to the level that corresponds to your speakers. If you have access to six speakers in your set-up, ensure you enter in a value for your sixth, centre-rear speaker

If you want to do the job really well, use a test tone meter (available for about £30) to accurately 'weight' each speaker. This will take account of variations in speaker sensitivity, and also acoustic influences, caused by furniture and by the relative positioning of each speaker. Measuring is best done using the remote control. Sit in your listening position and point the meter straight upwards, not at the speakers

To set the meter, turn the rotary dial so that it reads 80dB. Select 'C' weighting using the button next to the display, right-hand side, and select 'slow' response. Turn on the test tone built into your surround receiver, and turn up the main volume dial until you get a reading from the left-hand front speaker that shows 75dB. Trim the tone from each speaker to match that level

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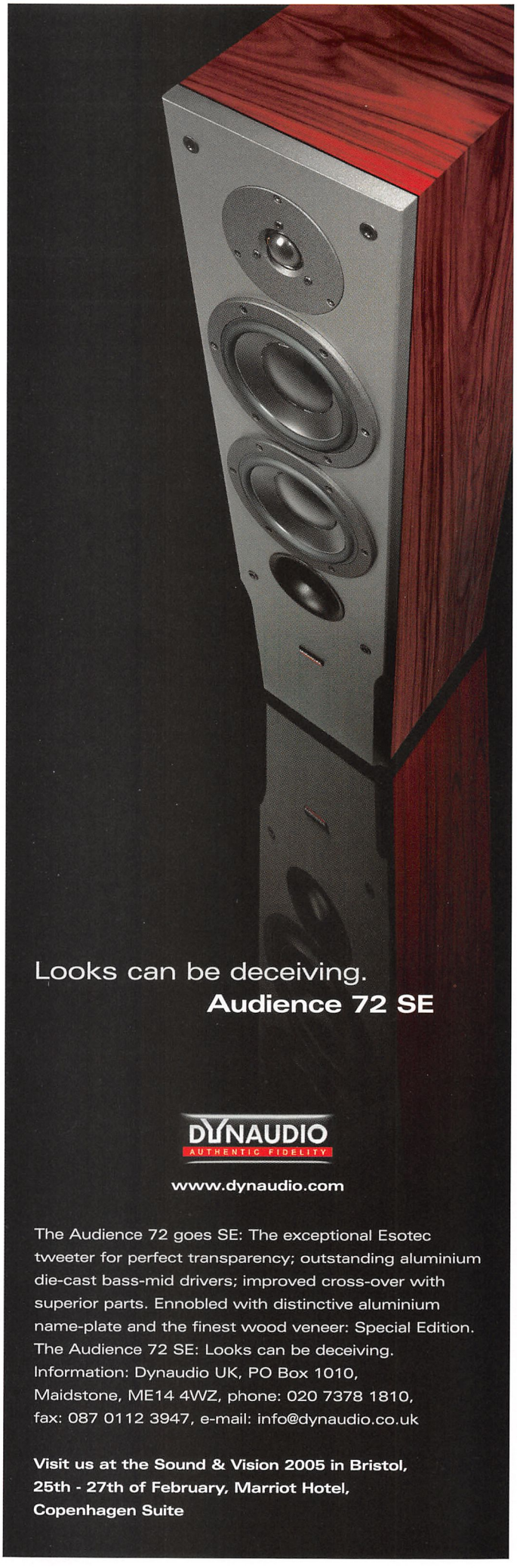

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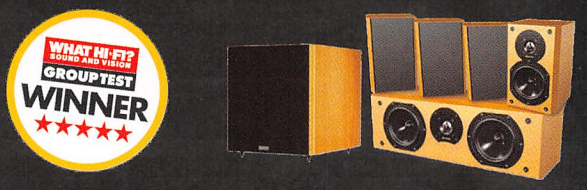

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HI-FI SYSTEM BUILDER

OUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GREAT HI-FI SOUND

STAGE ONE

Decision time: separates kit or all-in-one system?

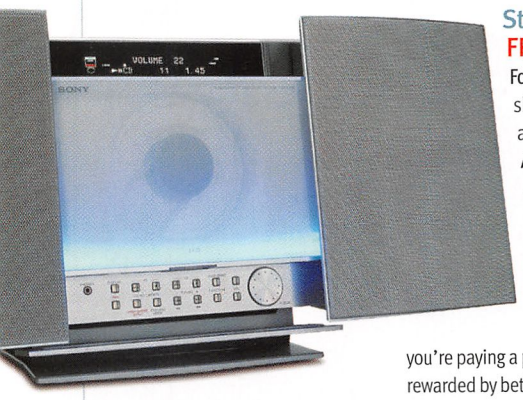
JUST LIKE HOME cinema kit, hi-fi systems come in three types. To some extent, the kit you buy will be determined by your budget – but size, style and flexibility also have parts to play. However, to us, the most important factor is sound quality, and it's 'sound per pound' that counts most in our reviews.

Micro system
FROM £100

For The most popular form of audio system, the micro system comes in a wide range of finishes and prices. The more you spend, the better the sound quality you'll get

Against These are still compact systems, so don't expect to shake the foundations; next to a separates hi-fi system, your long-term upgrade options are limited. Avoid flashing lights and other gimmicks: they tend to harm the sound

Verdict Choose wisely and you can get a great little system for very sensible money – but beware, it's not all good stuff



Style system
FROM £500

For You won't see a sexier system, short of high-end hi-fi; usually, a lot of innovative thinking

Against Style systems don't sound as good as their more prosaic micro system rivals, or full-size separates

Verdict A great way to make hi-fi fun, and can be ideal if space is short, but often you're paying a premium for style that isn't rewarded by better sound. Separates are better

Separates system
FROM £600

For Excellent sound-per-pound quality; plenty of power, even in budget systems; lots of long-term upgrade options

Against Neither as small nor as convenient as either mini or style-system rivals; you don't often get much to play with

Verdict The purist option, and we reckon the best use of your cash. If you go for a separates hi-fi system, you'll be able to build a system that'll last you for years

STAGE TWO

Choose equipment that combines together well

IF YOU'VE DECIDED separates kit is the way to go, the next thing to do is 'mug up' on the key features and sonic characteristics of each component you fancy. However, don't automatically choose five-star products: often, you can get a better-sounding system by blending four- and five-star kit together.

CD players
FROM £130

Check the player can handle CD-R/-RW discs if you want to play discs that you've made. And you'll need a digital output to record to MiniDisc or CD-R. A remote control is usually standard, and a headphone socket is handy, but make sure it has volume control. Display-off lets you kill the readout – some players sound better with it off.

Speakers
FROM £120

Huge speakers in a small room can sound poor, while small speakers might struggle to fill a big room. Check the specifications: speakers have a power-handling range (eg 20-100w) so ensure your amp's power-rating is compatible. Check sensitivity (look for a range of 87-92dB/w/m) and impedance (6-8 ohms).

Amplifiers
FROM £140

Line inputs work with CD players, tape decks and tuners, but not turntables. Phono inputs are required for connecting a turntable, but use the right kind for your cartridge. Some amps let you run a second pair of speakers to another room in the house. A 30-100w power output is usually adequate for most living rooms.

Recorders
FROM £130

A CD-R deck burns CDs you can play on most CD hardware, including portables . However, the latest technology is hard-disk (HD) recording. This can mean anything from a portable player/recorder such as the iPod to a high-end CD-R/HD such as Yamaha's CDR-HD1300E. Compressed MP3 files are small but can sound poor, while CD quality eats space but sounds great – so buy as large an HD as you can.

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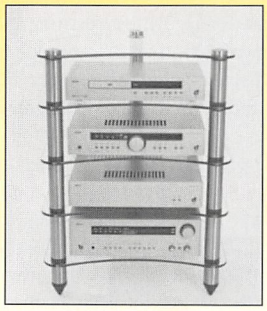
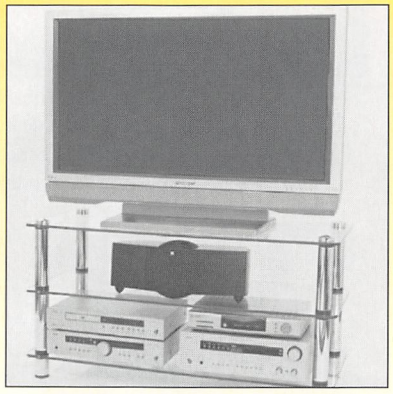


MODEL OPT 660
Optimum's Flagship shown in stainless steel finish



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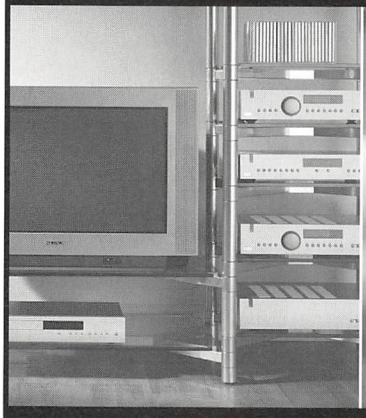

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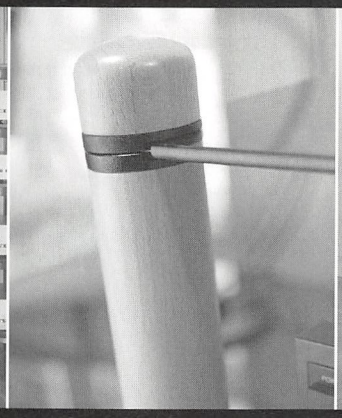
The flexible Audio visual system. Build up individual vertical shelving units or link units for continuous side-by-side TV & Hi-Fi housing. A range of ten colours available.

More details please ☐ AM



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The natural alternative for Hi-Fi support. These are sympathetically crafted with solid timber from sustainable sources in a choice of five beautiful wood finishes.

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APOLLO HI-FI FURNITURE

Our components improve yours

STAGE THREE

Follow our Golden Rules when you go shopping

AS WITH OUR home cinema recommendations, you should treat our product reviews as just that: advice, not orders. In the end, there's no substitute for listening and looking at a product in a dealer's shop. Only there will you be able to try before you buy. Still, it's best to go shopping forearmed: that way you can make a more informed buying decision.

Find yourself a good dealer who will lavish time on you

You could just read one of our tests and then buy your hi-fi online, via mail-order or from a discount store – but we'd say don't do it. A good dealer will offer you invaluable advice and demonstrations of alternative kit that might be suitable.

Don't always jump for the cheapest deal you can find

You might find what looks like a great price, but a good demonstration and excellent after-sales service can more than justify a premium price.

Don't let price influence your ears: sometimes cheap is good

If you really can't hear the difference between a budget system and the expensive kit, then buy the budget system. It's as simple as that. There's plenty of overpriced hi-fi out there, and some incredible bargains, too.

We'll help guide you, but you should trust your own ears, too

Before you buy, you really ought to spend some time auditioning products. Let your ears decide what's best for you – what you like will often be a matter of your personal preferences. Some people like a bright, hard sound: others want warmth.

Keep an eye on the future

One of the attractions of separates hi-fi is that you can build a system that suits your needs right now – but think about what you might want to do in the future. That might mean buying an amplifier with extra inputs, or with a phono stage, or that'll support an extra set of speakers, or one that'll withstand future power upgrades.

STAGE FOUR

Buy cables and supports to maximise your investment

THE RIGHT ACCESSORIES can make or break your hi-fi. We recommend that you spend around 10 percent of your total system budget on stands, interconnects and speaker cables. This will ensure you get the very best performance from each component – and that means better sound quality. We also recommend a good equipment rack as an additional investment.

1. Phono (RCA)

The standard cables used on most hi-fi.

2. Digital coaxial

Connects a CD player's digital output.

3. Digital optical

An alternative to electrical digital cables.

4. DIN

Alternative to phono sockets, only found on specialist high-end hi-fi equipment.

5. XLR

Balanced connector for high-end hi-fi.

6. BNC

Locking connector for high-end hi-fi.

Speaker stands

These position your speakers at the correct height, and keep them firmly located, so all their energy is used to make music.

Isolation platforms

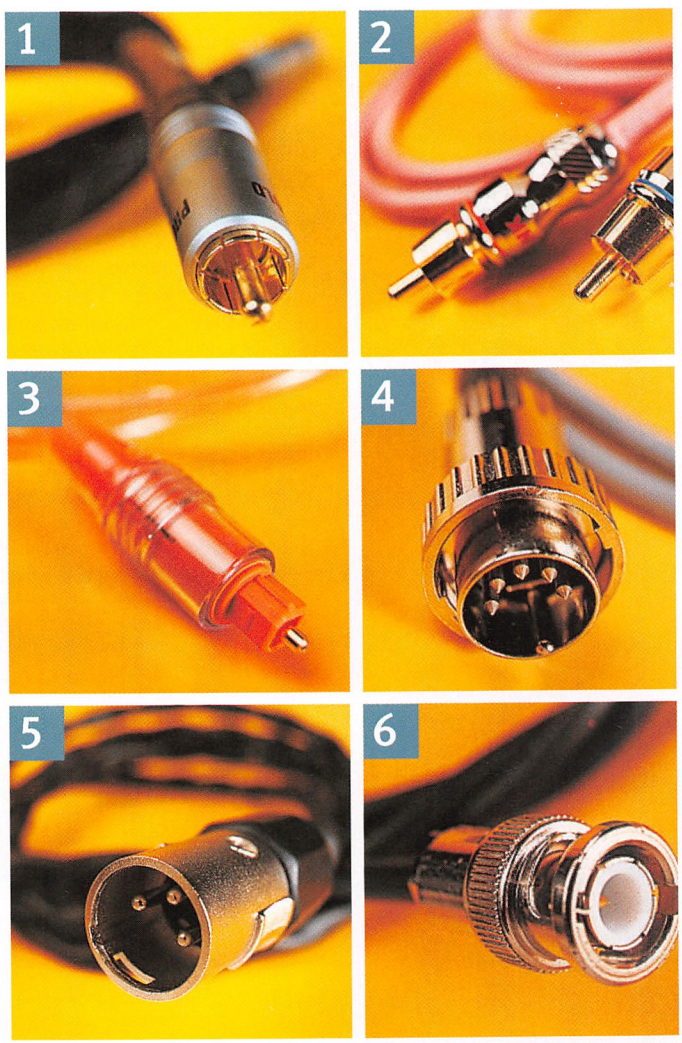
Electronic components don't like vibration. These platforms soak up interference, preventing it from being transferred to sensitive electronic components.

Equipment racks

Do the same job as isolation platforms, reducing interference and vibration.

Headphones

Ideal for solo listening, but make sure your kit has a headphone socket first.



READER RESCUE

HOME CINEMA OR HI-FI CRISIS? CALL US

Take a firm stand

One couple's distinctive system show it's not always easy to pick the perfect pair of speakers – but we have the solution and extras to suit

The challenge

Clive and Enza's system is halfway there, but they're crying out for some new loudspeakers (and some way to isolate them from both the floor and the attentions of their three predatory cats). In addition, they're sceptical regarding the benefits of upgrading their speaker cable. This looks like another job for the indefatigable *Reader Rescue* squad.

Current system

Amplifier Rega Mira 3
CD player Rega Planet
Speakers Heybrook point five
Speaker cable Generic 79-strand
Interconnect Rega

Our solutions

Loudspeakers
Dynaudio Audience 52SE
Speaker cable
Chord Company Carnival
Speaker stands
Partington Super Dreadnought

Upgrade cost
£1150

Rega was the last of the UK's specialist audio manufacturers to build a CD player, but when it did the Planet was very well received. This £498 top-loader makes an ideal partner for Rega's top integrated amplifier, the £548 Mira 3

What's the problem?

It's a common observation made about decorating, but in our experience it holds true for hi-fi as well – 'if it doesn't get done within six months, it doesn't get done at all'.

Clive and Enza's system is a fine example: they paid serious money a while ago for their two Rega boxes, and very nice they sound, too. They fully intended to replace their elderly Heybrook speakers as well, but what do you know? The system sounded OK, so they found other things to do with their money. But deep in their hearts, they knew there was more to come from the amp and CD player, and have finally decided to bite the bullet and buy those new speakers. Which is where we come in.

We suggest...

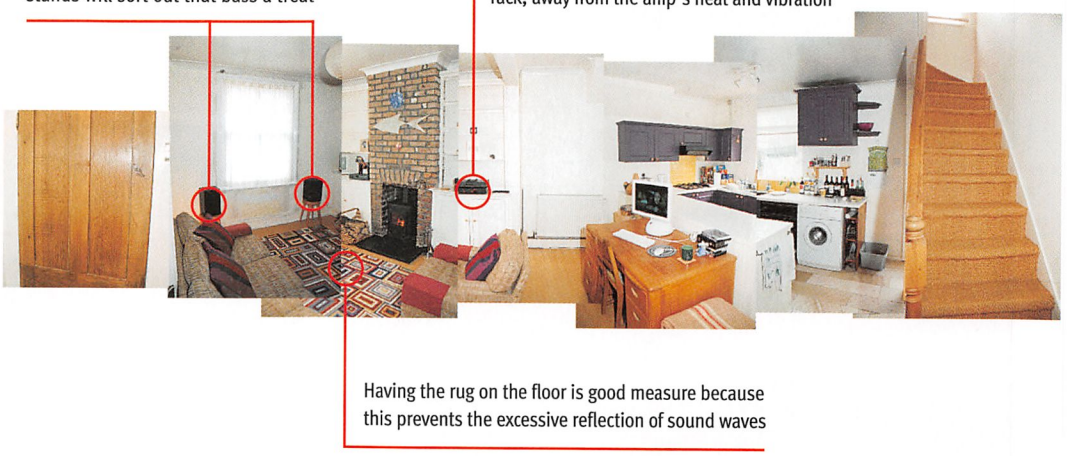
Heaven knows we never intend to enter people's homes and castigate their hi-fi decisions, but in this instance we can't help ourselves. Clive and Enza's venerable Heybrooks are parked on what look like a couple of milking stools. They have some half-baked reason for this (which involves their three unruly cats and the ninja-like assaults on the speakers when they were on shelves) but we're not having it. We're as equable as the next man, but the sound of the system, which is altogether too bloated and boomy, forces our hand. Partington's ever-reliable Super Dreadnought stands are extracted from the 'Rescue-mobile' and the results are startling. The low frequencies calm down immediately, losing their booming resonance and become far tauter and better integrated. The advantages aren't lost on Clive: "It means we can turn it up." Enza, too, is impressed by the results: "It sounds sharper, far less flappy." And it's true: it's nothing like as flappy.

We receive similar acclaim when we replace the bog-standard speaker cable they've been using with something worthwhile – in this instance, Chord Company's Carnival. The results are far greater presence and attack – Enza revels in the "fuller, more powerful" sound, while Clive enjoys the "greater detail" – and the improved "lovely bass".

Having sold the couple on the benefits of (relatively) inexpensive accessories, we get down to the matter at hand. With the Heybrooks tucked out of the way of the ever-vigilant cats, we position AVI's Neutron IV speakers atop the Partingtons – these speakers are, in fact, so compact that they sit between the spikes on the top-plates, a fact that's not lost on Clive: "Look how small they are! Do they make any sound?" Naturally, they do.

As we anticipated, the low end is more precise than the couple have been used to, and timing improves, but it's hard to disagree when Clive observes, "They're nicer at lower volumes, but too sharp when you play them loud. The treble's nice and crisp, but they're not roomy enough in the bass." Enza agrees, "They're not as warm, and much more forward than our Heybrooks." It

Our Rescue Team's fix-it list



Regular *Rescuer* Simon Lucas is keen to find the perfect pair of speakers for our happy couple, even if it involves three or four trips to the 'Rescue-mobile'

proves what we've always said – that system synergy is vital. The Neutrons might be our best-in-class Award-winners, but with the Rega front end they sound hard and unforgiving.

So we try something different: with ProAc's Tablette 8s attached, we claw back some credibility, but there's still not the leap forward in performance that we want.

There's only one thing for it: the mere sight of Dynaudio's Audience 52SEs is enough to reassure Clive: "That's more like it!" And when they're fired up, it's soon obvious that the SEs and the Rega equipment get on like a house on fire.

We run through a selection of testing music from the couple's extensive collection – Tom Waits, Miles Davis, Plaid, Red Hot Chili Peppers – and the results are gratifying every time. The 52SEs are supremely musical in this context, offering an engaging, exciting listen without any of the fatigue that the ProAcs or, especially, the AVIs hinted at. "Nothing stands out," observes Enza. "It's a really even-handed sound." The speakers benefit from being in a little free space and we can revel in the low-end grunt and presence, the detail and the sheer verve of the presentation. Job done!

The final result?

Clive and Enza both knew they wanted new loudspeakers. They both knew that they ought to get some speaker stands. But the question of system synergy is a vexed one, especially where speakers are concerned – in this instance, we've found a perfect match and condemned an innocent couple to weeks of hard saving. For the umpteenth time, we've illustrated that there's often more to getting a great sound than picking the Award-winning or most highly rated equipment. Clive sums it up succinctly: "Speakers do my head in."

Want to be featured?
Send a note of your system and your problem to: *Reader Rescue*, What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0JE

MARCH'S HOT DISCS

MUSIC AND MOVIES TO TEST YOUR SYSTEM

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

HOT DISCS

TOP FIVE

The Lord of the Rings

ALL THREE OF the Extended Edition DVDs are must-haves, but if you push us as to which is the best, it's the third and final installment. Awesome sound and vision.

VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic
SOUND Dolby Digital EX, DTS-ES

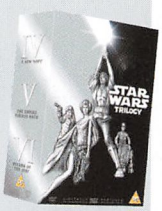
Finding Nemo

ASTONISHING DIGITAL ANIMATION makes this a fantastic demo disc, and it should look superb with vivid colours and pinpoint detail. As a bonus, the soundtrack is a lesson in 3D cohesion.

VISION 1.78:1 Anamorphic
SOUND Dolby Digital EX, DTS 5.1

Star Wars Trilogy

PROBABLY THE MOST anticipated DVD release of all time, so it's a good job the remastered sound and enhanced vision meet every expectation. Just buy a copy.



VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic
SOUND Dolby Dig EX

Master and Commander

STILL HOLDING ON to its position in our top five after all this time, Peter Weir's nautical epic remains a fine lesson in sonic realism: the beautifully engineered soundtrack blends massive power with highly effective rear-speaker subtlety.

VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic
SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1, DTS 5.1

Shrek 2

EVERY BIT AS funny and enjoyable as its forebear, this excellent tester is a riot for kids and adults alike. Boasts stunning picture quality, and the seamless surround score is effective, too.

VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic
SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1

Hero

An extraordinary feast for the eyes, and a great-looking DVD disc transfer, too

Hero

Buena Vista | Cert 12

VERDICT ★★★★★

IF YOU LOVED Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, then you'll love *Hero*: to describe this beautiful, almost dream-like film as just another 'martial arts' flick seems almost insultingly simplistic. Just as with its illustrious forebear, *Hero* is as much about look and feel as about plot and premise: director Zhang Yimou's emphasis is firmly on the artistic, with plenty of gravity defying fights (and other equally improbable feats) to dazzle and delight you.

The key difference is in this movie's budget and scale: *Hero* cost £18m, a drop in the ocean by Hollywood standards, but plenty in Hong Kong. As a result, the huge sets are impressive, the supporting cast plentiful, and there was still enough left in the kitty to pick up some A-list leading actors, including superstar martial artist Jet Li, and Zhang Ziyi (one of the key cast in *Crouching Tiger*, in case you're wondering).

Of course, you might find all this Chinese mysticism a bit hard to take, and there are certainly moments when the plot becomes a little too repetitive for its own good. But the technical merits of this DVD – and in particular, the amazingly high quality of the video transfer – mean it's an essential test disc all the same.

VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic
SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1

MOST TESTING SCENE

Chapter 3

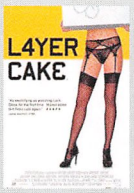
The attack on the calligraphy school is a great showcase of Zhang Yimou's artistic intent. As a veritable horde of soldiers (the 'Red' army) let fly with their arrows, Jet Li and Maggie Cheung (Flying Snow) move to repel the assault, armed with...well, not much, actually. Li has a sword, Cheung has her flowing robe – not the sort of firepower you'd choose to take into a battle. The resulting sequence, as the dynamic duo repel hundreds of thousands of deadly arrows, is a little barking – but beautiful just the same. It's also a great test of rear speaker surround steering.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

HOT DISCS

COMING SOON

Layer Cake



March 7th

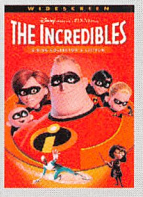
Brit-flick thriller of the *Lock, Stock...* genre – but darker and more intense

Finding Neverland

March 14th

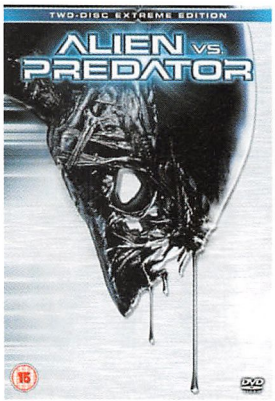
Thoughtful and much praised biopic of Peter Pan creator J M Barrie

The Incredibles



March 21st

Stunning animation from Pixar – turn to p34 for how to get a free two-disc DVD



Alien vs Predator

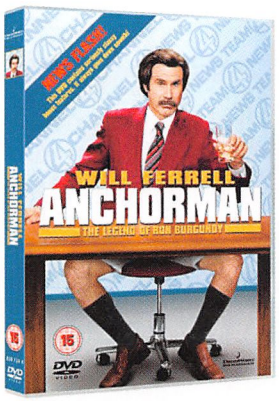
20th Century Fox | Cert 15

VERDICT ★☆☆☆☆

FANS OF THESE two sci-fi franchises should look away now. Brit director Paul W S Anderson gave the world *Mortal Kombat*, *Resident Evil* and *Soldier*, and his latest release is every bit as praiseworthy as his earlier efforts. *AVP* can essentially be summed up in two words: 'loud' and 'inane'. Oh, and 'rubbish'. Okay, so that's three...

VISION 2.35:1 Anamorphic

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1, DTS 5.1



Anchorman

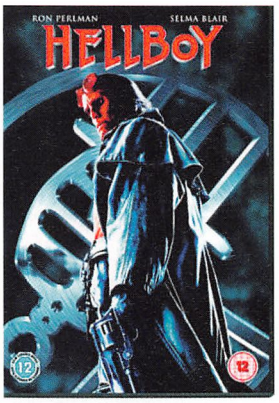
Dreamworks | Cert 12

VERDICT ★★★★☆

WILL FERRELL'S LATEST is a riot, a real feast of broad-brush (and often crude) humour that works even after repeat viewings. It's not a great test DVD in sonic terms, but the picture transfer impresses, with especially vivid colours. It's a fine way to test your display's ability to cope with over-blown reds and oranges, courtesy of lashings of fake tan.

VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1



Hellboy

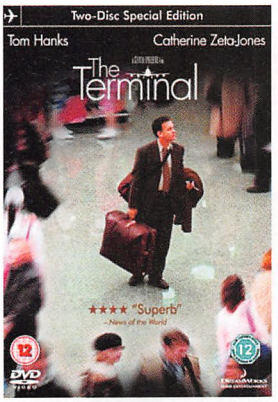
Columbia Tristar | Cert 12

VERDICT ★★★★★

YET ANOTHER COMIC to make it to the big screen, and as ever with such adaptations, a film that'll divide opinion – but in general, *Hellboy* has met with more praise than criticism. High production values, dramatic sets and some pulsating action scenes add energy, while an excellent picture transfer and plenty of low-end welly ice the DVD cake.

VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1



The Terminal

Dreamworks | Cert 12

VERDICT ★★★★★

A LITTLE SUGAR can be good for you sometimes, and few directors can portray a sweet, simple story as well as Spielberg. Tom Hanks delivers a beautifully judged and restrained performance, with only a few lapses into schmaltzy excess (notably at the end). A fine, elegant film, and a great test for surround atmosphere: your rear speakers will have plenty to do.

VISION 1.85:1 Anamorphic

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1

The latest music to make your system shine

A pair of golden oldies from Mercury Living Presence plus some groovy Hammond and fresh hip-hop

CD

Horizon 22

Horizon 22 | Cyan

This dynamic set gives a nod to the 1960s sound of the Blue Note label. The groovy Hammond organ and funky guitars are a great test of realism.

MOST TESTING TRACK

Outfangthief! *Only top sytems can keep up with this funktastic tester*

CD

The Romeros

Rodrigo & Vivaldi: Guitar Concertos | Mercury Living Presence

THE ANDALUSIANS' CLASSICAL and flamenco playing is spectacular and this disc is a beautiful test of subtlety.

MOST TESTING TRACK

Vivaldi Concerto in B Minor *This complex set demands finesse of the highest order*

SACD/CD

Janos Starker

Bach: The Cello Suites | Mercury Living Presence

PART OF MERCURY'S release from its Living Presence catalogue, the SACD mix allows us to hear the three-track recordings in their original form. Lovely!

Most testing track

Suite No.1 in G Major *Good kit delivers the phenomenal detail in this cracker*

CD

The Perceptionists

Black Dialogue | Definitive Jux

Bored of same old, same old hip-hop, schmip-mop? Try a dose of the Perceptionists – the Boston trio offer a fresh sound with woofer-annihilating beats.

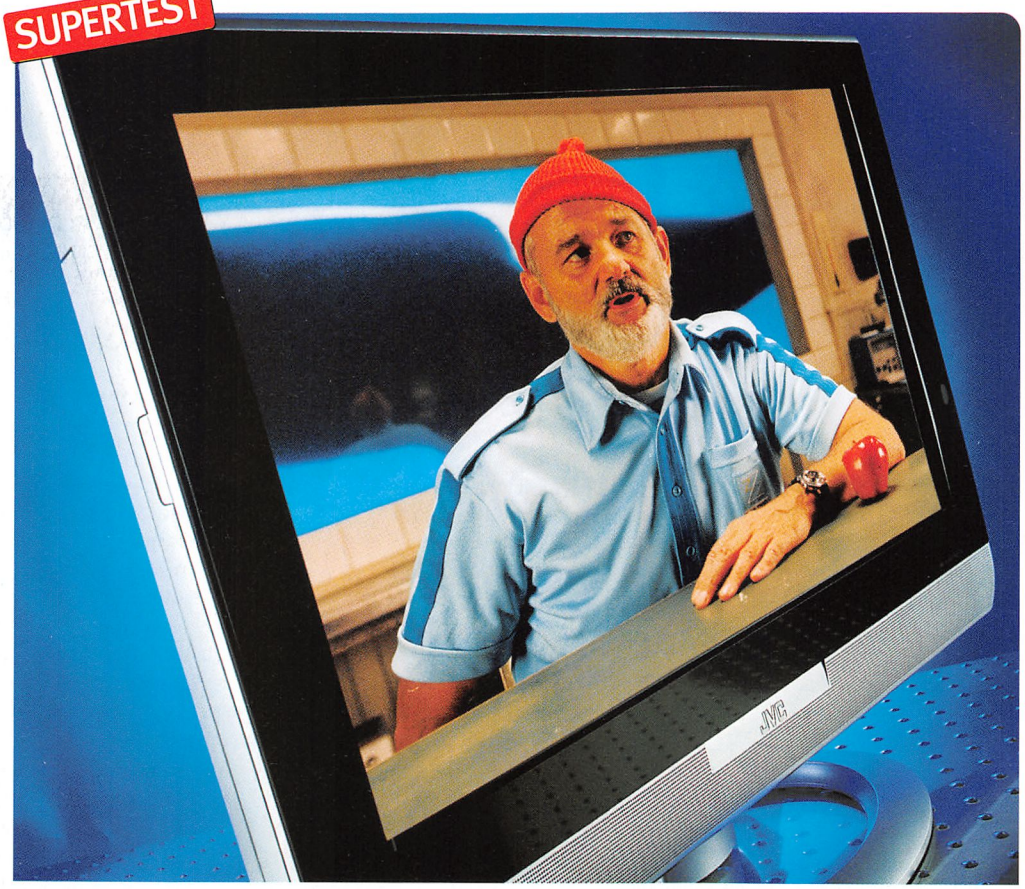
MOST TESTING TRACK

Career Finders *Phat beats + a funky riff + fleet-of-foot vocals = a serious tester*

Next Month

APRIL ISSUE, ON SALE 10 MARCH

SUPERTEST



32 in LCD TVs

Swap your CRT for something more slinky – we review the sexy new flatscreen stars

EXCLUSIVE!

iPod Shuffle

First review of Apple's micro MP3 marvel, in our *Group Test* of sub-£100 digital music ultraportables

ALSO TESTED £500-£700 CD players

Plus

- ★ Pro-ject's latest turntable
- ★ Flagship multichannel amps
- ★ Active subwoofers
- ★ Micro system bargains

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

THE HOME ENTERTAINMENT BUYER'S GUIDE

NEW TECH TVs

Be sure not to miss BRITAIN'S NO.1!

WHAT HI-FI?
SOUND AND VISION

BUYER'S GUIDE

EVERY PRODUCT, EVERY PRICE

MORE THAN 1500 VERDICTS

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How our Guide can help you

WHAT FOLLOWS IS the UK's most comprehensive guide to home cinema and hi-fi, and it has just got bigger and better. Follow our step-by-step guide to help you buy the best for your cash.

1. Section

All products of the same type are in the same place – for example, all the DVD players are in the first section. All sections list products alphabetically, with the larger sections being sub-divided by price – for example: DVD players 'under £400' are listed first, and those '£401 and over' follow.

2. Product name

Gives the exact name and model. Use this to search in the shops or online.

3. Price

This is a suggested retail price. *It's not the price you must pay*. See our shopping advice below for how to get great deals.

4. Date tested

This is the date of the issue in which the product was last tested (AW indicates the annual Awards issue). FT means the product featured in our *First Tests* section. GT or ST mean it faced a selection of similar products in a comprehensive *Group Test* or an extra-large *Supertest* or *Megatest*. (For test reprints call 08456 777813.)

5. Verdict

We give every product a star rating, out of five. Five stars mean the product is excellent, a real class-leader; a four-star verdict means the product is very good, and is highly recommended; three stars means it's an average product worthy of consideration; two stars mean you could do better elsewhere; one-star products are best avoided.

6. We said...

A short verdict on each product, with longer summaries for all our Award-winners.

7. Data

Our updated *Buyer's Guide* includes more essential data than ever in an easier to use format. We've included a *Glossary* on p218 to explain technical terms. Finally, there's a comprehensive list of contacts on p220, with every phone number you'll ever need.

Clare Newsome
Editor

How to shop smarter

Five golden rules to follow before you flex your credit card

Rule One

GET SMART Use our tests and Buyer's Guide to learn more about the products and technologies that can boost your sound and vision. It pays to be spec-savvy – you'll buy better kit for your money.

Rule Two

INSIST ON A DEMONSTRATION Make sure any kit meets your exact needs: arrange to audition it in a listening room or during a home trial – not on the shop floor, where you can't get to know it.

Rule Three

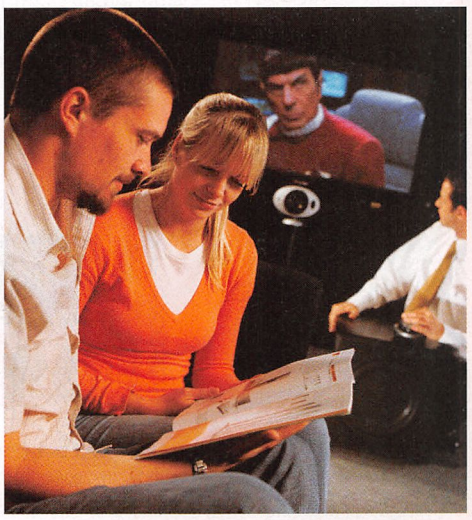
TAKE ALONG YOUR FAVOURITE DISCS Improving your system is all about getting more from the music and movies you love, and spinning well-known CDs and DVDs will help you see and hear how any components or systems measure up.

Rule Four

CHEAP DOESN'T MEAN GOOD VALUE Search around and compare prices from a range of suppliers, but always consider service and support as part of the package – an online deal might offer no customer support, for example.

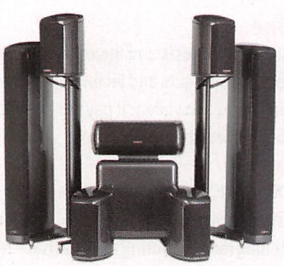
Rule Five

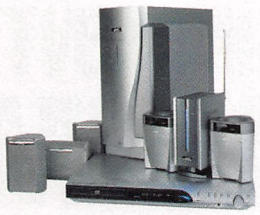
TAKE YOUR TIME Be sure you're happy with your choices. If it takes you a while to decide, that's fine, and if in doubt, always ask.



Best buys: Home cinema

Here's the kit that's top of our favourites list in three price categories. Every month we'll update the list as new rivals enter the market and take on the current champions

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
DVD players Full product listings p110	**Toshiba SD-340E** £90 There isn't a better-performing DVD player under £250 – amazing value!	**Denon DVD-2910** £600 The improvement over budget players is astounding: a great cinema source.	**Arcam DV79** £1000 Another awesome DVD player from Arcam, which will do your CDs ample justice, too.
Digital recorders Full product listings p111	**Humax PVR-8000T** £150 An inexpensive hard-disk recorder with Freeview and a useful 40GB capacity.	**Sony RDR-GX300** £325 Top-quality recording and playback from an exceptionally well-priced DVD recorder.	**Sony RDR-HX900** £700 Superb recordings from this multi-format DVD recorder, with a huge 160GB hard disk.
Multichannel receivers Full product listings p114	**Denon AVR-1905** £300 Our Product of the Year receiver that does everything extremely capably	**Denon AVR-2805** £700 Last year's Award-winning AVR-2803 meets its match – in this new Denon	**Yamaha DSP-Z9** £3300 The most advanced surround amplifier in the world, offering nine-speaker support.
Compact speaker packages Full product listings p114	**Wharfedale Diamond 9 HCP** £500 Traditional good-looks and great all-round abiliy make these winners.	**Mordaunt-Short Genie** £800 The new kings of the castle are these pointy but pleasing little bits of genius.	**ProAc Response Hexa 5.1** £1715 A no-compromise compact speaker kit: will complement more powerful amps.
Full-size speaker packages Full product listings p~~114~~	**Epos ELS3 5.1** £956 Fine timing, powerful drive, and a sweet midrange mark out these great speakers	**Quad L Series** £2300 Components that impress enormously as individuals, making a stunning package	 **Mission Elegante e82** £3990 Distinctive, dark looks and a balanced and focused sounds with music and movies.

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
Home cinema in a box Full product listings p116	 **JVC TH-SW8** £400 All of the advantages of wireless rear speakers, and great bang for your buck.	**Denon DHT-500SD** £500 This package has plenty to say for itself, it's got hot performance and cool looks.	**KEF KIT100** £1200 Effective surround sound from only two front speakers marks out this package.
Widescreen CRT televisions Full product listings p117	**Panasonic TX-28PM11** £525 Great 28in picture for the money – a superb example of CRT's strengths.	**Philips 32PW9509** £1000 Stunning CRT using Pixel Plus 2 tech, gives you the best picture ever made!	**Loewe Aconda 9381HD/DR+** £1900 Not cheap, but it's a brilliant television that includes a hard-disk recorder, too.
Flatscreen TVs Full product listings p119	**Sharp LC-20S1E** £900 Realistic colours, good depth of field and detail: a deserved *Supertest* winner.	**Philips 32PF9986** £3000 The Pixel Plus 2 picture-enhancement technology makes this a real stunner.	**Pioneer PDP-435XDE** £3500 This 43in HDMI-equipped plasma sets new standards of excellence.
Projectors Full product listings p122	**ScreenPlay 4805** £1300 The perfect accessory for enjoying your big-screen sport or movies on a budget.	**ScreenPlay 5700** £2200 Dazzling performer that's well-equipped, at a very competitive price for its class.	**Marantz VP-12S3** £8500 You'll need space to accommodate the picture, but what a sublime image it gives.

OTHER RECOMMENDED KIT...

Subwoofers

Wharfedale Diamond SW150 £250
Budget sub that adds presence to movies and is tuneful with music.

B&W PV1 £950
Technological masterpiece that sounds amazing – and it looks incredibly cool.

Cables

QED P2110 £30
The QED (right) is a great Scart.

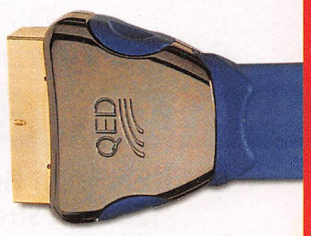
QED Qunex P-CV1 £45
Great affordable component cable.

Ixos XHD-608-100 £50 This is the coaxial digital connection of choice.

Wharfedale's Diamond SW150 is a champion sub

Chord Silver Plus HDMI £75
The best digital video cable

QED Qunex TTV £35
TV aerial cable is a winner



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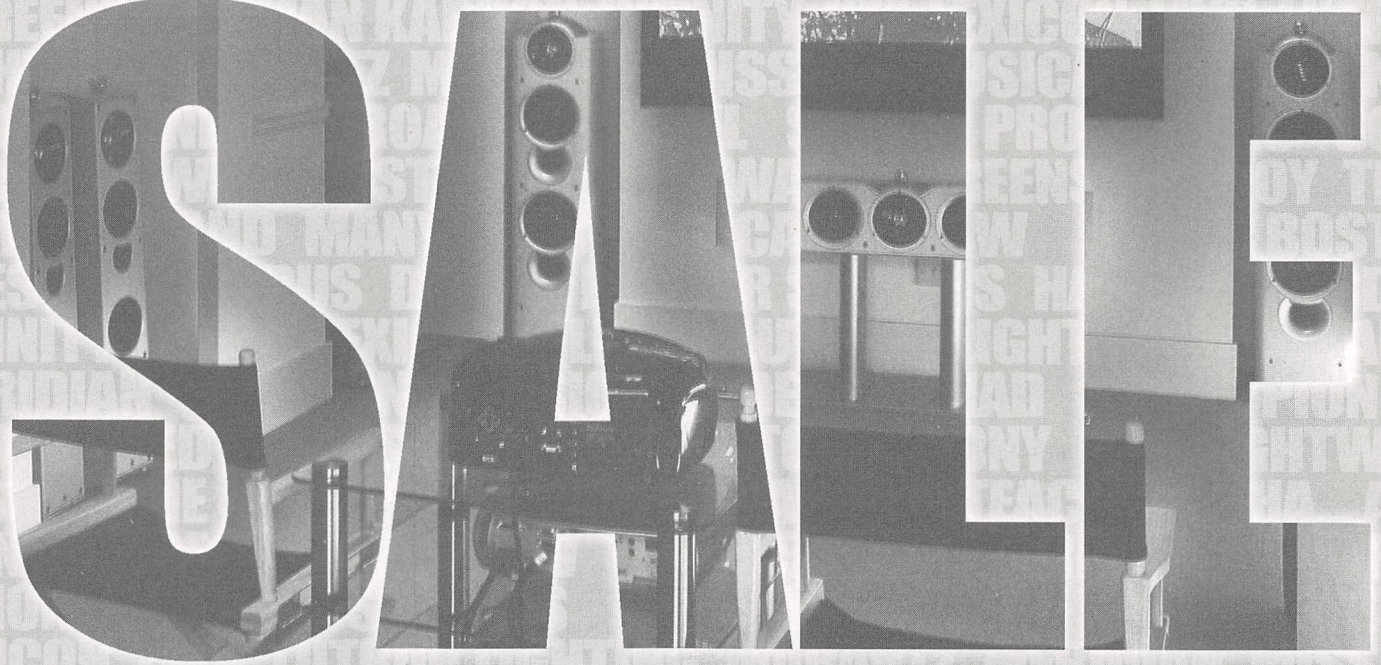

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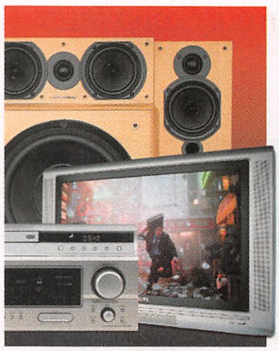
Our top three home cinema systems



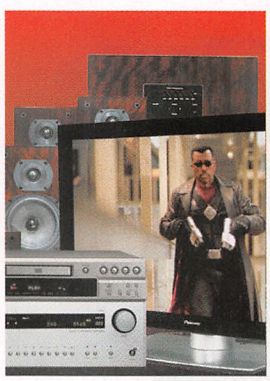
BUDGET £1890 These Award-winning budget separates give blistering images and sound

TELEVISION
Philips 32PW9509
★★★★★ £1000
Awards 2004
Using Philips' latest Pixel Plus 2 technology, this 32in CRT TV gives you fantastic contrast and depth to images, plus great colours and sound at a keen price.

DVD PLAYER
Toshiba SD-340E
★★★★★ £90
November 2004
Costing just £20 more than the *Supertest*-winner '240E, this player has even better picture and sound, and also adds DivX compatibility. Consider it a bargain, then.

AV RECEIVER
Denon AVR-1905
★★★★★ £300
November 2004
Today's budget receivers are sublime: bags of features and power, and a cracking ability to recreate movie effects. You'd have paid double the price for this a few years ago.

SPEAKERS
Wharfedale Diamond 9 HCP
★★★★★ £500
Awards 2004
Not a curve nor a flash of aluminium in sight on this excellent speaker package: traditional styling matched with sensational integration and plenty of drive.



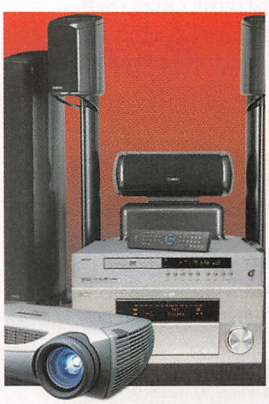
MIDRANGE £7030 This system will take home cinema to whole new level

TELEVISION
Pioneer PDP-435XDE
★★★★★ £3500
February 2005
Pioneer is right back on form with this exceptionally good 43in plasma TV. Never have large flatscreens looked so good. Be sure to pair it with an HDMI or DVI-equipped DVD player.

DVD PLAYER
Denon DVD-2910
★★★★★ £600
November 2004
The latest midrange Denon DVD player is a universal design with fine sound and excellent picture quality. Connected digitally via the HDMI socket, the picture is truly a sight for sore eyes.

AV RECEIVER
Arcam AVR250
★★★★★ £1000
Awards 2004
In a market dominated by Japanese manufacturers (Denon and others), it's great to see a Brit fighting, and winning. With movies *and* music this receiver is the one to beat at this price.

SPEAKERS
Quad L Series
★★★★★ £1930
Awards 2004
Take a couple of top 12Ls at the front, two gorgeous 11Ls at the back, the superb L Centre and Subwoofer, and you're away. Class build with magnificently detailed and integrated sound win the day.



HIGH-END £10,490 This Award-winning projector and electronics will put you on cloud nine!

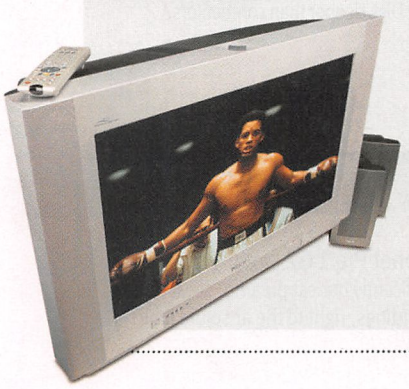
PROJECTOR
ScreenPlay 5700
★★★★★ £2200
April 2004
We gave this projector five stars when it cost £800 more, so you can imagine our pleasure at the price cut – it offers loads of connections, smooth movement, crisp lines and lovely, bold colours.

DVD PLAYER
Arcam DV79
★★★★★ £1000
August 2004
A world-class DVD player, with a cracking picture, especially via HDMI, and great build and ergonomics. In addition, this one plays CDs with aplomb. A class-leading all-in-one spinner.

AV AMPLIFIER
Yamaha DSP-Z9
★★★★★ £3300
March 2004
Nine (yes!) channel sound, automatic installation and calibration, built-in progressive scan processing so TV broadcasts look as sharp as DVDs – probably the best multichannel amplifier ever.

SPEAKERS
Mission Elegante e82
★★★★★ £3990
September 2004
The sleek, dark, curvaceous forms are straight out of *Alien*, and the sound is also out of this world. Not only movies, but music, too: delicate treble, full mid-range and oodles of bass.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS



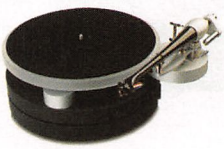
Surround-sound TV
Some televisions come with built-in Dolby Digital surround sound and extra speakers, giving you a simple one-box solution. They can't match the performance of a separates set-up, but the front speakers are usually built into the set and the rears tend to be quite small, so it's a neat solution for those who don't want to accommodate lots of extra boxes. In the *Buyer's Guide* (starting on p107) you can find a complete list of all the models we've tested.

Games consoles
You might not know it, but both a PlayStation 2 and an XBox will play DVDs, so if you already own one you can hook it into a surround system and use it for watching movies.

Home cinema in a box
The phenomenon that is home cinema in a box continues – though these packages tend to come in two good-sized boxes nowadays, as specs and sizes have increased. However, they can't match separates for quality.

Best buys: Hi-fi

Here's the kit that's currently top of our favourites list in three price categories. Every month, we'll update the list as new rivals enter the market and take on the top contenders in our *Group Tests*

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
CD players Full product listings p138	 **Cambridge Azur 640C** £250 Amazing performance for a budget CD player: vibrant with all kinds of music.	 **Cyrus CD8x** £1000 The update to the astounding CD8 left us lost for words, almost... magical!	 **Naim CDS3/XPS2** £7244 Two-box player that's so enjoyable it makes you want to listen to discs over and over.
Recorders Full product listings p140	 **Yamaha KX-580SE** £250 Best Buy cassette deck in the Awards 2002 – great for replay and recording.	 **Pioneer PDR-609** £280 Very impressive CD-RW/-R recording from this Product of the Year 2002.	 **Yamaha CDR-HD1300E MkII** £600 Combines CD and hard-disk playback and recording – easy to use and sounds great.
Turntables Full product listings p147	 **Pro-ject Debut III** £130 Exceptional performance all-round from this cheap yet very effective deck.	 **Clearaudio Emotion** £655 ...with Aurum Classics Wood cartridge and Satisfy Arm – an awesome deck.	 **Wilson Benesch Full Circle** £2000 Cosmetically, it's sound as a pound, and its delivery is detailed and cohesive.
Tuners Full product listings p147	 **Denon TU-260L MkII** £130 An excellent-value analogue tuner, and a Best Buy in the 2003 Awards.	 **Sony ST-SDB900** £250 Tuner Product of the Year: quality DAB digital and FM at a sensible price.	 **Densen Beat B-800** £850 Radio really needn't be the poor relation to TV, with this sublime FM-only tuner.
Integrated amps/receivers Full product listings p151	 **NAD C352CT** £350 NAD enhances its reputation for quality in the budget amp arena – a cracker!	 **Cyrus 8vs** £800 This improved version of the Cyrus 8, the 'virtual servo' upgrade, is stupendous.	 **AVI Laboratory Series** £1500 This is one of the best amps below £2000. Digs deeper than competitors.
Preamps Full product listings p157	 **Sugden Headmaster** £659 This great-sounding preamp also doubles as a top headphone amp.	 **Roksan Caspian M-series** £1250 Flexible and well-equipped, with great detail resolution and speed.	 **Audionet Pre 1 G2** £2000 Magnificently honest preamp: stays true to recordings, right to the absolute limit.

	BUDGET	MIDRANGE	HIGH-END
Power amplifiers Full product listings p157	**Quad 909** £900 A detailed, powerful amplifier with an exceptional depth of talent.	**Roksan Caspian monobloc** £1100 A pair of these plus their matching pre-amp took a 2004 amplifier Award.	**Audionet Amp 1** £3000 A lengthy audition shows its true class: even-handed and supremely dynamic.
Speakers Full product listings p165	**Wharfedale Diamond 9.1** £180 Class-leading detail and exceptional integration – truly superb value.	**Quad 11L** £379 Product of the Year 2003: top sound and finish, but demands quality kit.	**Spendor S5e** £1095 Stunning compact floorstanders that'll parade every note of music with style.
Systems Full product listings p177	**Goodmans 1104 DAB** £100 CD replay and DAB radio mark out this competitively priced Award-winner.	**Denon D-M31** £300 By far the best compact CD/receiver solution – a deserved Award-winner.	**Linn Classik** £995 Great looks, build and sonic talent from this one-box CD player/tuner combo.
MP3 players Full product listings p193	**Ministry of Sound Stix** £80 Good things come in small packages? This 128MB micro player is just that.	**Rio Nitrus** £135 Small size, ease of use and good battery life mark out this excellent 1.5GB unit.	**Apple iPod 20GB** £220 A truly classic design, as influential as the Sony Walkman: functional, fun and sexy.

OTHER RECOMMENDED KIT...

Personals & portables

Sony D-NE10 £160
A well thought-out and designed personal CD player, the Sony has a classy feel and sounds impressive.

Archos AV400 £400
Hit the road with music and movies at your fingertips – a great design that plays sound and vision really well.

Pure Digital PocketDAB 1000 £129
This pocket-sized digital radio delivers superior performance and looks great thanks to its blue backlit LCD screen.

Phono amps

Trichord Dino £299
Best in class in the 2004 Awards, for a second year. It offers a slice of the high-end at an affordable price, with a sparklingly impressive delivery.

Speaker cables

Chord Carnival Silver £5.50/m
Helps to pick out the strands of music. Even in budget systems it's capable of uncovering an extra layer of detail.

QED XT400 £20/m (single-wire)
Best Buy in the 2003 Awards, this speaker cable offers exceptional detail resolution and an even tonal balance.

Headphones

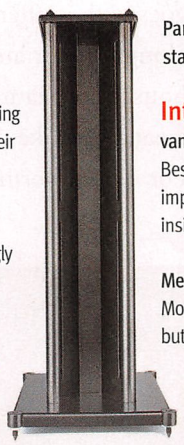
Sennheiser PX100 £30
Best headphones winners in 2004, the practical and lightweight folding design gives a really detailed sound for not a lot of money.

Sony's D-NE10 is a cracking-quality portable CD player

Beyerdynamic DTX900 £65
These headphones are ideal for extended listening at home: considering their modest price, they're extremely detailed, thoroughly involving, great value and pleasingly light and comfortable – what more can we say?

Speaker stands

Partington Super Dreadnought £169
Best speaker stands in our 2004 Awards, the Partingtons use an industrial-style design to great effect, giving your system a genuine sonic boost – and that includes tighter, better-defined bass, and a more focused midrange.

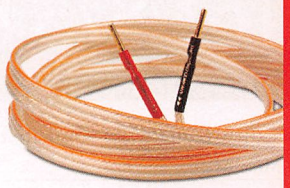


Partington's Super Dreadnought stands add great authority to sound

Interconnects

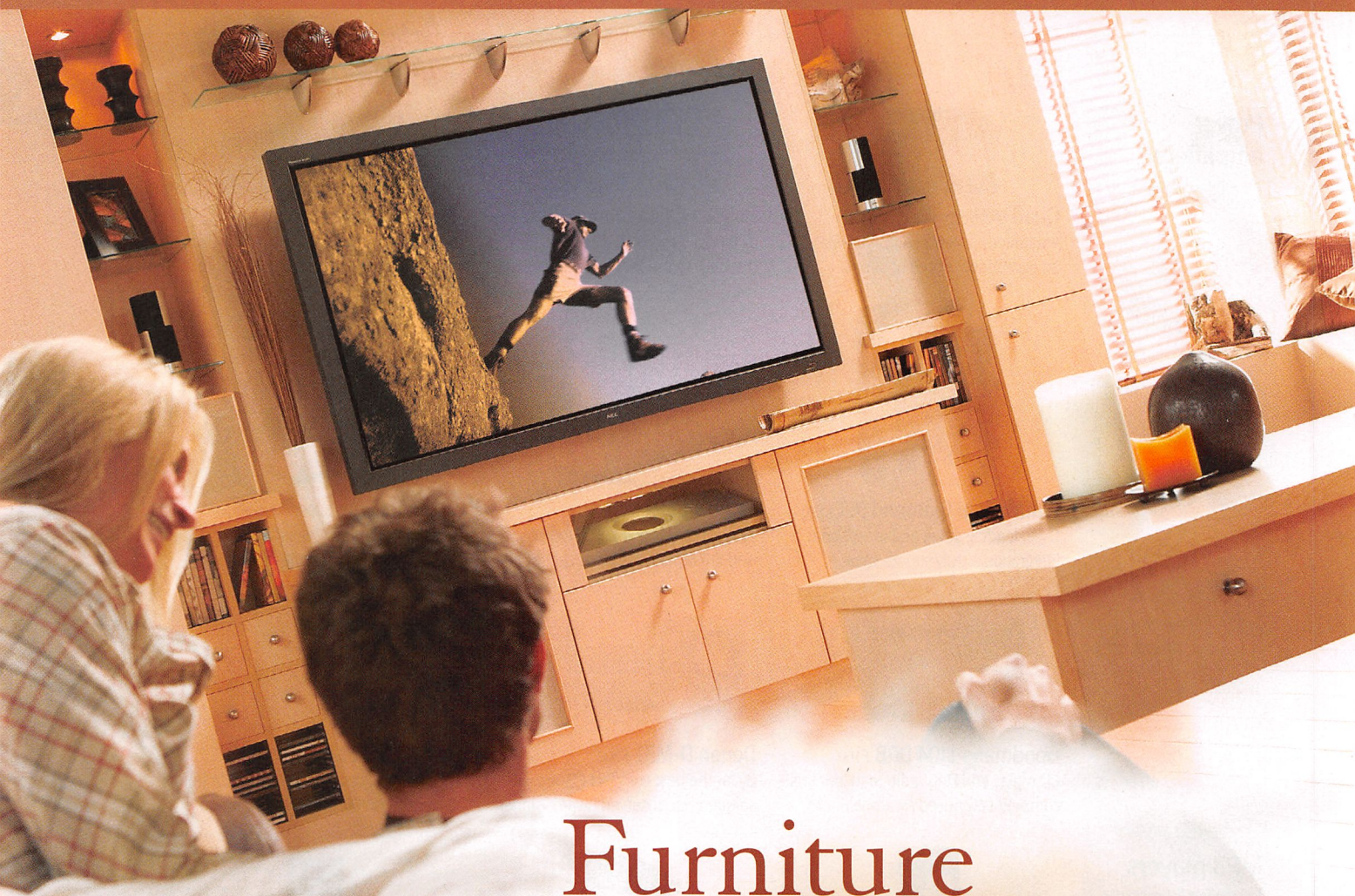
van den Hul The Name £40
Best interconnect in 2004 – highly impressive sound offering fabulous insight for not that great an outlay.

Merlin Chopin £85
More expensive than The Name, but with much improved sonics.



It's always party time if you use Chord Company's Carnival Silver speaker cable

HOME STUDIES BEDROOMS HOME CINEMA SEATING



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Our top three hi-fi systems

BUDGET £680 These Award-winning budget products will make you sit up

CD PLAYER
Cambridge Azur 640C
★★★★★ £250
July 2004
Cambridge Audio has had a solid reputation for producing decent budget hi-fi for several years – but with the Azur range that reputation has gone through the roof...

AMPLIFIER
Cambridge Azur 640A
★★★★★ £250
July 2004
... and this amp/CD combo is one of the most compelling reasons to buy separates we know. Add decent speakers and accessories and this set-up will bring CDs to life.

SPEAKERS
Wharfedale Diamond 9.1
★★★★★ £180
December 2004
Rounding off this brilliant budget set-up, the Diamond 9.1s give loads of detail, good integration, and plenty of bass. They're one of the hi-fi bargains of the moment.

MIDRANGE £1429 Go one step further and you're rewarded well

CD PLAYER
Arcam C73T
★★★★★ £400
September 2004
Debuting in December 2003, this superlative CD player from Brit manufacturer Arcam still leaves the competition standing. Great dynamic force, spacious sound – and it's upgradable.

AMPLIFIER
Roksan Kandy MkIII
★★★★★ £650
Awards 2004
Plenty of features – such as a headphone socket, phono stage, and 120w/ch of power – make the Roksan easy to live with. And that's before you revel in the wonderful sonics – a joy to hear.

SPEAKERS
Quad 11L
★★★★★ £379
May 2004
Long-time favourites of ours, the 11Ls are amazing value, offering the kind of finish you'd expect to find in far costlier loudspeakers. The sound quality is truly scintillating, too.

HIGH-END £2895 Pricey, but these Award-winners will bring music to life

CD PLAYER
Cyrus CD8x
★★★★★ £1000
November 2004
If you thought the CD8 was great (we did!), then wait till you hear the latest version. The added 'x'-factor brings smoother treble, tauter bass, and makes listening to CDs incredibly addictive.

AMPLIFIER
Cyrus 8vs
★★★★★ £800
October 2004
Towering all-round ability from the 2004 version of this already extremely impressive amp. Precision, grip, stereo imaging and authority are all first-rate. Not a weakness to its game.

SPEAKERS
Spendor S5e
★★★★★ £1095
July 2004
These floorstanders are compact and bijou, delivering sound with the kind of even-handedness that the talented Cyrus pairing deserves – the S5es let the music do the talking.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

All-in-ones keep it simple
We're passionate about our music, and for that reason nine times out of 10 recommend separates for their better quality and upgrade capability. But there are places – say the kitchen – where you want quality *and* simplicity. Time to look at offerings such as Denon's D-M31 mini (left) or Goodmans £100 micro, the 1104 DAB system with digital radio.

Music for the whole home
It's not going to happen overnight, but logic says that eventually all our music will be stored as digital files that can be accessed from anywhere in the home – and maybe even remotely via our portable players or work PCs. Cyrus's CyrusLink and Yamaha's MusicCast are the first generation of music servers: download your tunes to their hard disks, then play them via access modules – called "clients" – dotted all over the house. Music in the bath, anyone?

DVD players

Digital video and audio on handy CD-sized discs

BUDGET Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	PLAYS: DVD-A	SACD	MP3	DVD+R/+RW	DVD-R/-RW	DVD-RAM	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: Composite out	Component out	S-Video out	RGB Scart out	DVI-D out	HDMI out	Phono out	Digital opt out	Digital coax out	FireWire out	six-channel out	Dolby decoding	DTS decoding	PAL prog scan	NTSC prog scan
Bush DVD2023	59	11.02/ST	★★	Only good enough for use with modest televisions.					●		●			●			●	●	●						
Bush DVD2035	70	11.03/ST	★★★	Competent player, but it failed to excite us in any way.					●		●			●			●								
Bush DVHS1	200	11.03/GT	★	DVD/VCR combination with poor sound and vision.							●			●			●		●						
Cambridge Audio Azur 540D	250	04.04/FT	★★★★	Fine picture, gutsy sound and decent specification.	●		●		●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Denon DVD-1400	400	03.04/FT	★★★★	Competent, but the DVD-2200 does overshadow it.	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●		
Denon DVD-1710	130	11.04/FT	★★★★	Good specs but it won't win prizes for picture quality.			●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●					●	●
Denon DVD-1910	230	12.04/FT	★★★★	Excellent digital video pictures but average with analogue.			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●					●	●
Harman-Kardon DV22	300	11.04/GT	★★★	Great looks but it can't match the best.			●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●					●	●
Lafayette LFDV969	120	08.04/GT	★★★★	Well built, good features and fine performance.	●		●		●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●		●	●
Limit DVD800SE	150	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Tuning by Cyrus has made this special with music.			●		●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●			
Mustek PL-408 (portable)	240	01.05/GT	★★★	Lightweight but sadly its visual performance lets it down.										●			●		●						
NAD T513	200	Awd.04	★★★	Not a bad performer but there's better value around.			●	●		●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●					●	●
NAD T533	270	11.04/GT	★★★	You'll struggle to find improvements over budget models.	●		●	●			●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●			●	●
NAD T562	400	12.02/FT	★★★	Decent player, but it doesn't offer anything special.			●				●	●	●	●			●	●	●					●	●
NAD T571 (DVD/CD changer)	350	11.02/FT	★★★★	A neat CD multiplayer and DVD player from NAD.			●				●	●	●	●			●	●	●						●
Panasonic DVD-S47	100	08.04/GT	★★	Some plus points but you can get more for your money.			●				●			●	●		●	●	●			●	●		
Philips DVP-720SA	150	08.04/GT	★★★	Nice, but the performance can't justify the price.			●	●			●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Pioneer DV-575A	150	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Better than the old DV-565A Award-winner for less cash.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Roadstar DVD 2200K	100	11.03/ST	★★	Disappointing - a karaoke machine that plays DVDs.			●				●	●	●				●	●			●				
Samsung DVD-E234	100	11.03/ST	★★★	Fine player, but for the price you could do better.			●				●			●	●		●	●	●						
Samsung DVD-HD935	150	08.04/FT	★★★★★	Amazing specs, especially the DVI-D output.			●		●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●			●	●
Samsung DVD-P345	110	Awd.04	★★★★	Competent player with useful memory card slot.			●	●	●		●	●	●	●				●	●		●			●	●
Sanyo DVD DL-40	75	08.04/GT	★★	Affordable, but overall performance is poor.			●		●		●			●			●	●	●						
Sony DVP-NS585P	100	11.04/FT	★★★★	Combine with the DVP-NS585P for a great system.			●	●	●		●	●	●	●				●						●	●
Toshiba SD-240E	70	08.04/GT	★★★★★	One of the best DVD bargains we have ever come across.			●		●		●	●	●	●			●		●			●		●	●
Toshiba SD-340E	90	11.04/FT	★★★★★	DVD player Product of the Year in Awards 2004. A bargain.			●				●	●	●	●			●	●	●			●	●	●	●

Toshiba SD-340E

This was one of the easiest Awards categories to call, because there isn't a better-performing player for the price. Better-equipped than the cheaper SD-240E, this player holds the edge with images and features, which include PAL/NTSC progressive scan. Amazing pictures for not a lot of cash – perfect!

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
DVD PLAYER
TOSHIBA SD-340E

Toshiba SD-34VB	180	02.05/FT	★★★★	DVD player and VCR - does a decent job in both formats.			●				●	●	●					●	●					●	●
Toshiba SD-P1400 (portable)	299	07.04/FT	★★★★	Compact and well made with a stable and clear picture.			●				●		●				●	●							
Wharfedale M3	100	02.03/FT	★★★★★	Very good DVD player for very little money. It has style, too.			●				●	●	●	●			●	●	●						
Yamaha DVD-S1500	400	12.04/FT	★★★★	Solid performer but there are better universal players.	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●			●	●
Yamaha DVD-S550	130	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Performs on a par with more costly players.			●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●					●	●

BUDGET £401 and over

Arcam DiVA DV78	700	05.04/GT	★★★★★	You can have the best of both worlds in one box.				●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Arcam DiVA DV79	1000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Best DVD player £750-£1000 in Awards 2004.	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Arcam FMJ DV29	1600	12.04/FT	★★★★★	Awe-inspiring visuals and impressive music delivery.	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Cyrus DVD6	750	06.04/FT	★★	Good-looking but won't disturb the best in class.				●	●		●		●	●			●	●	●						
Cyrus DVD8	1200	02.03/GT	★★★★	Excellent for music - not outstanding with movies.				●	●		●	●	●	●			●								
Denon DVD-2200	600	05.04/GT	★★★★★	Barnstorming player, excites on nearly every level.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Denon DVD-2900	850	01.04/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. The universal to beat.	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Denon DVD-2910	600	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Best DVD player £250-£750 in Awards 2004.	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			●	●
Denon DVD-3910	900	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Outstanding, especially paired with the AVR-3805.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Denon DVD-A1	2500	08.02/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Expensive but stunning.	●		●				●	●	●	●			●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Denon DVD-A11	1600	02.04/FT	★★★★★	The Denon is one of the best DVD players on the market.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lexicon RT-10	2750	01.04/GT	★★★	Great picture, but ordinary sound at an extraordinary price	●	●	●		●		●	●	●				●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Meridian G98	3350	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Best DVD player over £1000 in Awards 2004. Sensational.	●		●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●
Meridian Reference 800	10805	02.01/FT	★★★★★	Staggering player - astonishingly accomplished.	●		●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●
Myryad Z122	500	05.04/GT	★★	Reasonable performer but it doesn't justifying its price.				●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●						
Onkyo DV-SP1000E	2800	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Stunning player - you need to see it to believe.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pioneer DV-668AV-S	600	05.04/GT	★★★★	Credible performer but stereo is merely adequate.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Pioneer DV-757Ai	800	01.04/GT	★★★★★	This is still one of the best universal players around.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pioneer DV-868AVi	1000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Great picture, thanks to cutting-edge HDMI technology.	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Primare DVD30	2000	08.04/FT	★★★★	Very good, but for this money it needs to be exceptional.	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Roksan Caspian	1195	09.02/ST	★★★	CD player that spins DVDs, but there's better around.				●			●	●	●	●			●	●	●						
Roksan Kandy DVD	650	02.03/GT	★★★	Good, but the Roksan offers little you can't get for £200.				●			●	●	●	●			●	●	●						
TAG McLaren Audio DVD32FLR	2995	09.02/FT	★★★★★	Superb in the right set-up - stunning picture and sound.							●	●	●					●	●						
TEAC DV-50	4500	10.04/GT	★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. No longer the class-leader.	●	●					●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★ Very good
★★★ Average
★★ Below par
★ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456 777813

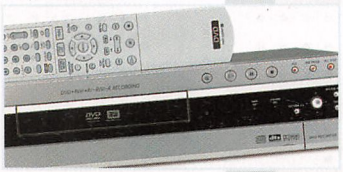
Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···›

DVD recorders

Record TV pictures digitally in superb quality

BUDGET Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	PLAYS						RECORDS				INPUTS & OUTPUTS									
					DVD-A	SACD	MP3	DVD+R/RW	DVD-R/RW	DVD-RAM	DVD+R/RW	DVD-R/RW	DVD-RAM	Hard disk	S-Video in	RGB Scart in	FireWire in	Component out	S-Video out	RGB Scart out	DVI-D out	HDMI out	Digital opt out	Digital coax out	FireWire out
4KUS DVR-230	140	01.05/ST	★★★★☆	Exclusive to Asda - a performance that belies the price.			●	●	●						●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Goodmans GDVD300R	200	01.05/ST	★★☆☆☆	Poor TV tuner performance and below-par recordings.			●	●	●		●				●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Hitachi DV-RX7000E	280	01.05/ST	★★☆☆☆	Overpriced considering what you can get for this money.				●	●	●		●	●		●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●
Liteon LVW-5045	350	01.05/ST	★★★☆☆	A fistful of features for your cash but the TV tuner is poor.			●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Mico Espejo R311	200	01.05/ST	★★★☆☆	Recordings aren't great - it's average for the price.			●	●	●		●				●	●			●	●				●	●
Mustek R100B	170	06.04/GT	★★★☆☆	This provides fine value on a quality-per-quid basis.			●	●	●		●	●			●	●			●	●			●	●	●
Panasonic DMR-E55	260	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Digital recorder Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	●		●		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Panasonic DMR-E75V	400	08.04/FT	★★★★☆	DVD recorder plus VHS recorder - useful space-saver.	●		●		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●	●				●	●
Pioneer DVR-320S	380	01.05/ST	★★★☆☆	Disappointing for the price - others do more for less.				●	●		●	●	●		●	●			●	●			●	●	●
Sony RDR-GX300	325	01.05/ST	★★★★★	Delivers outstanding recordings and DVD pictures.			●	●	●		●	●			●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●



Sony RDR-GX300

The new bearer of the crown of best budget DVD recorder, Sony's winning combination involves style, good value, and – above all – smashing performance. Not only does it have a great television tuner, which ensures that it creates smashing-quality recordings, but the DVD playback is exceptionally good, too.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION BEST IN CLASS

Sony RDR-GXD500	400	02.05/FT	★★★★★	Quality recorder with Freeview box - laughably easy to use.			●	●	●		●	●			●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Thomson DTH7500	399	01.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Looks great value, but weak picture quality spoils it.			●	●	●					●	●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Thomson DTH8000	399	01.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Mixed performer, doesn't earn a recommendation.				●	●		●		●		●	●			●	●			●	●	●
Yamada DVR8000	169	06.04/GT	★★★★☆	Punches well above its weight - fine value for money.			●	●	●		●	●			●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●

BUDGET £401 and over

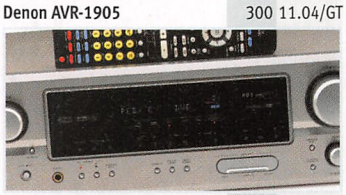
JVC DR-MH30	700	Awd.04	★★★★★	Extremely impressive - an easy to use high quality product.			●		●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Panasonic DMR-E500	1300	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Talented performer that produces top-class recordings.	●		●		●	●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Panasonic DMR-E85	600	06.04/GT	★★★★★	A product with great performance and specifications.	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Panasonic DMR-E95H	800	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Sensational recording capability, immensely appealing.	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Pioneer DVR-420H	500	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Good value for a hard-disc recorder - others perform better.			●		●			●		●	●	●			●	●			●	●	●
Pioneer DVR-520	600	10.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Choose the DVR-420-S unless you have a camcorder.			●		●			●		●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●	●
Pioneer DVR-720H	750	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Lacks video sparkle - you can do better.			●		●			●		●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●	●
Sharp DV-HR300H	700	06.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Convenient but it's let down by recording quality.			●	●	●		●			●	●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●
Sony RDR-HX900	700	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Best DVD/HDD recorder in Awards 2004.			●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●
Toshiba RD-XS32	499	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Makes fine recordings and is a passable DVD player.			●		●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●				●	●	●

Surround amps & receivers

Home cinema and hi-fi sound through multiple speakers

BUDGET Up to £800

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Tuner presets	Channels/power	SURROUND MODES									INPUTS & OUTPUTS								
							Pro-Logic II	Pro-Logic IIx	Dolby Digital EX	DTS Neo:6	DTS Matrix	DTS Discrete	DTS 96/24	THX	THX EX	THX Ultra2	External inputs	Pre-outs	Analogue in	Coax digital in	Opt digital in	FireWire in	PC in	Digital opt out	Digital coax out
Cambridge Audio Azur 540R 6.1	250	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Great for gung-ho movie-watching.	40	6x80	●		●								5	7	●	●	●			●	●
Denon AVR-1604	300	05.04/FT	★★★★★	Belies price with movies and music.	40	6x75	●		●	●	●	●					8	1	●	●	●			●	
Denon AVR-1705	250	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Astonishing - top choice at £250.	40	6x75	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				7	7	●	●	●			●	
Denon AVR-1804	400	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Cheap, with scintillating performance.	40	6x90	●		●	●	●	●					9	0	●	●	●			●	
Denon AVR-1905	300	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in Awards 2004	56	7x80	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				8	8	●	●	●			●	



Denon AVR-1905

Wow, this is a fearsomely competitive category, and Denon makes some fantastic home cinema amps, so this must be a blisteringly good multichannel receiver? Right? Right! At the heart of a good home cinema set-up our Product of the Year will leave you dazed and confused as ear-thumping effects cascade around the room.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER
DENON AVR-1905

Denon AVR-2105	450	Awd.04	★★★★★	Best receiver £300-£500 Awards 2004.	40	7x90	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				8	8	●	●	●			●	
Denon AVR-2805	700	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Best receiver £500-£750 Awards 2004.	56	7x100	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				8	8	●	●	●			●	
Eltax AVR800	200	04.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Killer specifications for the price.	20	6x92	●		●	●	●						7	1	●	●	●			●	●
Harman-Kardon AVR 130	350	06.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Game performer with real strengths.	30	5x40	●										8	6	●	●	●			●	●
Harman-Kardon AVR 430	800	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Decent but isn't not special enough.	30	7x65	●		●	●	●	●	●				3	8	●	●	●				
Marantz SR4500	350	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Solid performer with plenty of features .	50	7x80	●	●	●		●	●	●				7	8	●	●	●			●	●
NAD T763	800	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	Enjoyable listen but not a feature king.	30	6x100	●	●	●	●	●	●					6	8	●	●	●				
Pioneer VSX-2014i	800	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Well-equipped, impressive verve.	30	7x100	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			4	8	●	●	●	●		●	
Pioneer VSX-C502	300	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Svelte looks and spacious sound.	30	7x75	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				4	6	●	●	●				
Pioneer VSX-D814	300	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Looks better on paper than it performs.		7x100	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				4	8	●	●	●				
Sony STR-DB795	300	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Cracking seven-channel all-rounder.	99	7x100	●	●	●	●			●				4	8	●	●	●			●	
Yamaha DSP-AX750SE	500	08.04/FT	★★★★★	Clearly this amp is something special.	-	7x100	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				8	8	●	●	●				
Yamaha RX-V1500	700	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Fully loaded and performs superbly.	40	7x120	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		11	8	●	●	●		●	●	
Yamaha RX-V650	460	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Will appeal if you want a radio built in.	40	7x95	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				7	8	●	●	●				

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS 08456 777813

Surround amps & receivers cont...

Home cinema and hi-fi sound through multiple speakers

BUDGET £801 and over

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Tuner presets	Channels/power	SURROUND MODES: Pro-Logic II	Pro-Logic IIx	Dolby Digital EX	DTS Neo:6	DTS Matrix	DTS Discrete	DTS 96/24	THX	THX EX	THX Ultra2	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: External inputs	Pre-outs	Analogue in	Coax digital in	Opt digital in	FireWire in	PC in	Digital opt out	Digital coax out
Arcam DiVA A90 7.1	1150	03.04/FT	★★★★☆	A revelation with the P90/3.	-	2x90											9	-	●						
Arcam DiVA AVR250	1000	Awd.04	★★★★★	Best for £750-£1000 in Awards 2004.	30	7x75	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				7	8	●	●	●			●	●
Arcam DiVA AVR300	1300	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Stunning with the DV79 DVD player.	25	7x100	●	●	●	●		●	●				9	8	●	●	●		●	●	●
Denon AVC-A1SR	3000	09.02/GT	★★★★☆	Has muscle, refinement and quality.		7x170	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13	8	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Denon AVR-3805	1000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Very impressive, great with DVD3910.	56	7x120	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				8	8	●	●	●			●	
Harman-Kardon AVR 630	1000	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Good performer with great usability.	30	7x75	●	●	●	●							7	8	●	●	●			●	●
Harman-Kardon DPR2005	1300	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Slimline, classy all-digital receiver.	30	7x120	●		●	●	●	●	●				12	8	●	●	●		●	●	●
Lexicon RV-8	5500	02.05/FT	★★★★☆	Capable, flexible and very well-built.		7x140	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	8	8	●	●	●			●	●
NAD T773	1200	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Exciting with music and movies.		7x110	●			●	●	●					10	8	●	●	●		●		
Onkyo TX-NR900	1499	08.03/FT	★★★★★	Outstandingly flexible and impressive.		7x140	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		9	8	●	●	●		●	●	●
Parasound Halo C1/A51	8500	08.03/FT	★★★★☆	Exceptional pairing - but pricey.		5x250	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	11	7	●	●	●		●	●	●
Pioneer VSA-AX10Ai	3000	12.04/FT	★★★★★	Impressive for music and movies.	n/a	7x150	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	8	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Pioneer VSX-AX5Ai	1300	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Classy paired with the DV-868AVi-S.		7x100	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		9	8	●	●	●	●	●		
Primare SPA20	2000	09.03/FT	★★★★☆	Lacks frills, but delivers with music.		5x100	●		●	●	●	●					9	8	●	●	●				●
Rotel RSX-1056	1195	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Genuinely classy and a great listen.	30	5x75	●		●	●	●	●	●				7	10	●	●	●			●	●
Rotel RSX-1067	1795	08.04/FT	★★★★☆	Sublime sound but the price is high.	30	7x100			●				●				7	10	●	●	●				
Sony TA-DA9000ES	2600	05.04/FT	★★★★★	A huge, stunning all-digital debut.	-	7/200	●		●	●	●	●					12	8	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Yamaha DSP-Z9	3300	03.04/FT	★★★★★	Best amp over £1000 in Awards 2004.		9.1/170W	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	10	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Processors

Team with a power amp for a high-end multichannel solution

BUDGET Up to £10000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	SURROUND MODES: Pro-Logic II	Pro-Logic IIx	Dolby Digital EX	DTS Neo:6	DTS Matrix	DTS Discrete	DTS 96/24	THX	THX EX	THX Ultra2	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: External inputs	Pre-outs	Analogue in	Coax digital in	Opt digital in	FireWire in	PC in	Digital opt out	Digital coax out
Arcam FMJ AV8	3150	05.03/ST	★★★★★	Superb - paired with the P7 power amp, simply stunning.	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	9		●	●		●			●

Arcam FMJ AV8

We tested the AV8 alongside the P7 multichannel amplifier and found its ability without match at this price level. Comprehensively equipped with the latest decoding modes, it's also a breeze to set up and install, making this Arcam processor the ideal hub for a multichannel music and movie set-up.

Cyrus AV8	1100	05.03/ST	★★★☆☆	Affordable 5.1 channel system with three SmartPower amps.	●										3	6	●	●	●				
Krell HTS7.1	8998	01.04/FT	★★★★★	Class leader - comfortable with music and movies.	●		●	●	●	●		●	●		10	8	●	●	●				
Lexicon MC-12	8100	04.02/FT	★★★★★	On our electronic elite shortlist - it's jaw-droppingly good.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	8	7	●	●	●			●	●
Lexicon MC-8 (balanced)	5750	12.03/FT	★★★★★	A belter - almost as much ability as its MC-12B brother.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	8	6	●	●	●			●	●
Meridian 861	9833	02.00/FT	★★★★★	Brilliant, better-sounding than almost everything else.	●	●	●					●	●	●	n/a	8	●	●	●		●	●	●
Meridian G68ADV	4995	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Fantastic - a very fine niche product.	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	5	6	●	●	●				●
Myryad MXD6000/MXA7150	5900	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Sombre appearance but a top-class performer.	●		●	●	●	●					9	8	●	●	●				
Naim AV2	2300	12.02/FT	★★★★★	AV2 and NAP V150 power amp - truly thrilling combination.	●		●	●							10	8	●	●	●			●	●
Parasound Halo C1	5000	08.03/FT	★★★★☆	Strong surround abilities when paired with the A51 amp.	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	11	7	●	●	●		●	●	●
Parasound Halo C2	3500	11.03/FT	★★★★☆	Pricey but excellent kit with fine sound and huge appeal.	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	11	8	●	●	●		●	●	●
Rotel RSP-1068	995	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Fistful of features and solid performance; just short of special.		●	●	●			●				8	8	●	●	●		●		
Rotel RSP-1098	2295	02.04/FT	★★★★★	Terrific - worthy of comparison with much pricier designs.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				8	8	●	●	●		●	●	●
TAG McLaren AV30R	1695	10.02/FT	★★★★★	Great looks, bombproof build and excellent performance.	●			●	●	●								●	●			●	
TAG McLaren AV32R bp192	2250	10.00/FT	★★★★★	Stunning - use with the 100x5R amp for sonic thrills.	●		●	●	●	●								●	●				●
Yamaha DSP-E800	370	09.00/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. A bargain.											8	5	●	●	●				

Subwoofers

Bass reinforcement for both home cinema and hi-fi

BUDGET Up to £2095

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Power (w)	Driver (cm)	Cabinet (hwd) cm	Ported	Sealed	Line inputs	Speaker in	Line outputs	Speaker out	Phase invert	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Aegis Comp Sub	300	05.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Not the worst, but others give more weight and depth.	A150	22	36x38x31	●		●	●				2
ATC C-4	2350	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Rhythmic and musical, at ease with pretty much anything.	650	31	58x50x50		●		●			●	Bk
B&W ASW300	250	05.04/GT	★★★★☆	Offers a fair slice of low-end weight and ability for the price.	A100	20	41x33x38	●		●	●	●	●	●	2
B&W ASW675	650	10.02/FT	★★★★★	Cracking little sub that will suit more than DM600S3 owners.	500	25	34x34x41		●	●		●		●	3
B&W ASW750	1200	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in 03 Awards. Solid bass delivered with power.	A1000	30	44.40.48		●	●		●		●	5
B&W PV1	950	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Best subwoofer over £900 in Awards 2004. Remarkable.	500	2x20	34x29x35		●	●	●	●		●	Sl
Dynaudio SUB300	900	10.04/GT	★★★☆☆	The level of performance fails to live up to its price tag.	200	24	34x32x47	●		●				●	4
Energy S8.3	250	10.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Does a decent enough job but it is not going to blow your mind.	A100	20	42x28x36	●		●	●			●	3
Eton E300	695	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	Good design - When right it's capable of power and authority.	A300	25	40x35x30		●	●	●	●	●	●	4
Jamo D7Sub	999	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Specs look good on paper but it fails to deliver in use.	400	38	49x59x44		●	●					Gr
Linn Sizmik 10.25	995	10.01/FT	★★★☆☆	A neat design but outstripped by similarly priced competitors.	500	25	39x36x36		●	●	●	●		●	4

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456 777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Subwoofers continued...

Bass reinforcement for both home cinema and hi-fi

BUDGET Up to £2095

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Power (w)	Driver (cm)	Cabinet (hwd) cm	Ported	Sealed	Line inputs	Speaker in	Line outputs	Speaker out	Phase invert	Finishes
Lucid PointOne 180	500	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Decent and amiable performer for the money.	180	25	34x36x47		●	●		●			Bk
M&K MX-350 MkII THX	2095	04.03/GT	★★★★★	Little short of breathtaking - partner with pedigree equipment.	A75	20	58x39x51		●	●	●			●	Bk
M&K V1250THX	995	06.99	★★★★★	Part of the 750THX package - stunning home cinema performer.	125	30	46x39x58		●	●				●	Bk
Magnat Omega 300	399	12.01/ST	★★☆☆☆	Respectable performance, but disappointing lack of real depth.	A100	30	46x52x49		●	●	●	●	●	●	Bk
Mission m5as	500	10.02/GT	★★★★★	One of the most musical subs. A winner if you've the space.	350	30	58x35x51	●		●	●			●	3
MJ Acoustics Pro 100 (wood)	699	04.02/FT	★★★★★	Superb punch with excellent extension - not for small rooms.	100	2x20	37x59x31		●	●	●			●	6
MJ Acoustics Pro 50 (paint)	299	06.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy Awards 2002. Awesome clout from a tiny enclosure.	50	20	33x28x28		●	●	●			●	2
MJ Acoustics Pro-50 (wood)	349	12.01/ST	★★★★★	Incredibly small, very fast and agile - not ideal for big rooms.	A50	20	33x28x28		●	●	●			●	6
MJ Acoustics Reference 1 MkII	799	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Attractive proposition and certainly worth an audition.	150	27	49x42x32	●		●	●	●		●	6
MJ Acoustics Ref 100 (paint)	350	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy Awards 03. Quality sub with a gutsy performance.	120	20	33x28x28		●	●	●			●	2
MJ Acoustics Ref 150 (wood)	629	Awd.03	★★★★☆	Strong sub that works well with both movies and music.	150	25	36x30x29		●	●	●	●		●	6
MJ Acoustics Reference 200	650	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Capable, compact sub but there's plenty of competition.	200	25	30x30x36		●	●	●	●		●	9
Monitor Audio ASW 100	300	05.04/GT	★★★★☆	A solid all-rounder that should appeal in most set-ups.	A120	25	32x32x34	●		●	●			●	2
Monitor Audio FB210	700	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	Big bold sound - but it's not a sub for smaller spaces.	250	2x25	50x37x37	●		●	●			●	2
Mordaunt-Short MS309	230	05.04/GT	★★★★★	First really cheap sub ever to impress us - bargain bass boost.	A150	30	37x37x37	●			●				3
Mordaunt-Short MS909W	500	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Fine effort that will work well in a wide range of systems.	200	30	42x42x42	●		●					2
Pioneer SW2505	600	10.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Can't match its rivals in terms of overall quality.	250	30	43x48x43		●	●				●	Bch
Quad L Series	700	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Best subwoofer £600-£900 in Awards 2004.	300	30	53x34x47		●	●	●	●		●	4
REL Acoustics Q-150E MkII	500	09.03/FT	★★★★★	Product of the Year Awards 03. Sensible but effective revamp.	150	25	32x29x33		●	●	●			●	Bk
REL Acoustics Q201E (paint)	725	02.01/FT	★★★★★	Great extension and muscularity - one of the best small subs.	200	25	33x30x35		●	●	●			●	Bk
REL Acoustics Q400E (paint)	1000	09.00/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Not big, but it sounds gigantic.	400	30	42x39x43		●	●	●			●	Bk
REL Acoustics Quake (paint)	350	12.02/FT	★★★★★	REL's pocket rocket merits instant inclusion on any audition list.	100	20	29x25x27		●	●	●			●	2
REL Acoustics Quake (wood)	425	10.02/GT	★★★★★	Produces prodigious bass considering its diminutive stature.	100	20	29x25x27		●	●	●			●	2
REL Acoustics Stadium III	1500	10.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy Awards 2002. Stunning performer in large rooms.	200	25	56x59x39	●		●	●			●	5
REL Acoust. Stampede (paint)	550	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Best subwoofer £300-£600 in Awards 2004.	100	20	40x28x29		●	●	●			●	2
REL Acoustics Strata 5(wood)	800	06.04/FT	★★★★★	Combines user-friendly appeal with excellent sonic ability.	A150	250	32x46x33		●	●	●			●	6
Sonus Faber Gravis	1099	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	A beautifully built and styled product that works superbly.	300	25	42x37x42		●	●	●			●	Bk
Sunfire Corporation True EQ	1695	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Cute unit that emits bass like you wouldn't believe.	2700	2x25	28x28x28		●	●			●	●	Bk
Velodyne CHT-12R	469	01.05/FT	★★★★★	Ideal way to upgrade your entry-level loudspeaker package.	200	30	46x38x50	●		●	●	●	●		3
VIBE Alpha 1	300	05.04/GT	★★★★☆	A small sub with a massive sound - a significant improvement.	A200	25	32x32x35		●		●			●	2
Wharfedale Diamond SW150	250	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Subwoofer Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	A150	25	33x33x37	●		●	●	●	●	●	3

Wharfedale Diamond SW150

The SW150 is the entry-level sub in the Diamond range, but its performance speaks volumes. Immediately apparent are the amount of weight and sense of authority that this sub lays down. Considering the price, the detail and definition to the bass are controlled and cohesive – equally adept with movies and music.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
SUBWOOFER
WHARFEDALE DIAMOND SW150

Yamaha YST-SW215	180	10.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	The price makes it tempting, but performance is well below par.	150	20	29x36x32	●		●	●			●	Bk
Yamaha YST-SW315	270	09.03/FT	★★★☆☆	A reasonable subwoofer, but it's not good enough to excite.	270	25	24x59x45	●		●	●			●	Bk

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Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

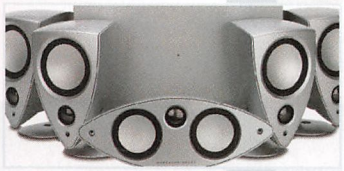
REPRINTS 08456 777813

Compact speaker packages

Surround sound enjoyment from small, stylish speaker systems

BUDGET Up to £4500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	System max power (w)	Lowest sens (db/w/m)	Lowest imp (ohms)	DIMENSIONS (hwd) Front	Centre	Rear	Subwoofer	Biwire	Finishes
AAD E30/E6	495	12.02/ST	★★★★☆	Delivers great dynamics from very small cabinets.	100	87	8	11x11x15	11x11x15	11x11x15	29x29x30		Mp
Anthony Gallo Nucleus Micro	1250	01.03/FT	★★☆☆☆	Dinky satellites that are a style guru's dream.	100	89	8	10 dia	10 dia	10 dia	18x28dia		8
B&W VM1/AS1	850	09.03/GT	★★★★☆	Excellent package, but newer rivals have eclipsed it.	100	91	8	52x12x9	52x12x9	52x12x9	38x25x38		3
Blue Sky Sky System 1	3166	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Remarkable - genuine rival for established brands.	A2x100	-	-	31x20x30	20x31x30	31x20x30	46x43x56		Bk
Bose Acoustimass 10 Mk III	800	09.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Fair-sounding and it's very small, sub apart.	100	-	4	16x8x10	16x8x10	16x8x10	42x21x64		3
Bose Acoustimass 15 Series II	1050	02.03/ST	★★★★☆	Delivers thrills without filling the room with boxes.	100	-	4	16x8x10	16x8x10	16x8x10	42x74x20		3
Bose Acoustimass 6 Mk 2	550	02.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Cute and works OK at modest volume settings.	50	-	8	8x8x10	8x8x10	8x8x10	42x21x57		3
Boston Acoustics MS8000S	499	01.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Solid and cohesive, but not the most capable.	100	89	8	18x11x15	11x20x13	34x29x39	34.29.39		Sl
Canton CD 4.25 (+CD50)	1660	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Offers a compelling blend of looks and ability.	120	86.5	4	101x9x10	9x43x10	101x9x10	47x30x44		Al
Canton Movie CD 1	480	Awd.03	★★★★★	Tiny kit at a great price - outstanding option.	45	86.5	4	14x9x10	9x22x10	14x9x10	39x24x43		Al
Castle Compact CC3	1000	02.04/FT	★★★★★	Classy - as excellent with music as with movies.	70	86	8	20x14x16	14x32x16	20x14x16	35x35x36		11
Denon SYS-A3L	350	04.04/ST	★★★★☆	This Denon's very swish and works within limits.	80	n/a	6	21x7x16	7x21x16	21x7x16	45x23x40		Wd
Eclipse TD 5.1	1200	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Discrete and covetable but the sound is not flawless.	70	80	8	16x12x16	16x12x16	16x12x16	35x24x30		3
Elac Cinema 3 ESP II	1200	11.04/ST	★★★★☆	Handsome but not value for money soundwise.	50	86	4	12x9x9	12x9x9	12x9x9	39x20x31		Al
Elac Cinema One 5.1	399	12.02/ST	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Highly effective.	60	84	6	12x9x10	12x9x10	12x9x10	37x28x38		2
Elac Cinema XL	499	03.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Good looking system with room-filling sound.	120	85	6	12x9x10	10x28x15	12x9x10	40x25x38		Al
Energy Act6	600	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Hamstrung by an irritating lack of integration.		87	8	16x17x11	16x17x11	16x17x11	41x25x35		Sl
Energy Encore	1649	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Quality kit that provides a good listen with movies.	125	89	8	19.13.19	12x40x20	19x13x19	35x35x36		Bk
Epos ELS3 5.1	956	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Exceptional - brings multichannel material to life.	100	87	4	27x17x20	17x51x21	27x17x20	37x34x45		3
Infinity Oreus sub/sat package	800	03.03/FT	★★★★★	Breathtaking design - great sound and appeal.	100	85	6	36x12x11	12x36x10	36x12x11	37x25x45		Sl
Infinity TSS-750	500	04.04/ST	★★★★★	Appealing package with good performance and looks.	100	88	8	15x11x11	11x24x11	15x11x11	43x27x40		2
Jamo A325 PDD	499	04.04/ST	★★★★☆	Innovative, but sacrifices substance for style.	60	87	6	29x14x7	10x41x5	29x14x7	61x29x14		Sl
Jamo A410PDD	699	06.02/FT	★★★★☆	Attractive package with slim satellites and sub.	50	88	6	22x11x9	11x22x9	22x11x9	33x60x15		3
Jamo D6PTX	1499	03.04/FT	★★★★★	Delivers fabulous sound for a sensible price.	180	89	4	29x60x15	29x60x15	21x44x15	44x45x44		Bk
JMlab Cinema (SibXL/Sib/Cub2)	1000	02.05/FT	★★★★☆	Capable and refined package with a top class sub.	75	90	8	51x14x10	51x14x10	25x14x16	33x30x30		Bk
KEF KHT 2005.2	800	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Still smashing.	100	88	8	20x13x15	20x13x15	20x13x15	37x32x32		2
KEF KHT1005	500	04.04/ST	★★★★★	Very well-designed - great with music and movies.	100	86	8	17x11x8	11x18x8	17x11x8	36x32x32		Al
KEF KHT9000ACE	4200	08.04/FT	★★★★☆	Stylish and capable of a surprisingly big sound.	150	88	8	56x25x13	25x56x13	56x25x13	47x50x50		Sl
KEF Q Compact AV	850	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	Detailed and insightful listen, but a little lightweight.	100	89	8	27x18x25	16x43x22	27x18x25	36x50x33	●	4
M&K K-5 package	1715	10.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Sensational.	200	n/a	8	19x13x15	19x13x15	19x15x16	25x35x24		3
M&K K-7 Package	2015	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Fun-sounding set-up - front runner with movies.	200	90	4	33x12x15	12x33x15	33x12x15	25x35x24		Gry
M&K Xenon 25	2271	12.03/FT	★★★★☆	Forceful and weighty sound - largely effective.	200	n/a	4	16x10x15	16x10x15	16x10x17	47x39x51		4
Mirage Nanosat	600	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Classic example of a mismatch between sats and sub.	100	88	8	20x13x15	20x13x15	20x13x15	37x32x32		2
Mirage Omnisat/OM200	1800	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Clever - an intriguing alternative to the norm.	150	89	8	20x16x20	20x16x20	20x16x20	48x42x114		4
Mission Cinema M30	480	04.04/ST	★★★★★	Superb - compact and an all-round performer.	75	86	8	22x15x19	14x50x13	22x15x19	40x25x41	●	2
Mission fs1-AV	500	12.02/FT	★★★★☆	Stylish NXT kit that's just right for its market.	100	88	8	32x8x4	32x8x4	32x8x4	40x49x34		Si
MJ Acoustics Pro Cin 1/Pro 50	799	02.03/ST	★★★★☆	For those who want small, conventional speakers.	100	88	8	23x16x12	23x16x12	23x16x12	33x28x28		8
Monitor Audio Radius	1000	Awd.04	★★★★☆	The tiny satellites have considerable sonic appeal.	100	87	8	19x12x14	12x35x10	19x12x14	37x23x32		5
Mordaunt-Short Genie	800	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Compact package Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	100	86	4	22x13x17	13x30x16	22x13x17	42x37x37		Sl



Mordaunt-Short Genie

A lot of compact speaker packages major on style – tiny aluminium satellites are the norm – but leave you cold when you actually switch them on. Our Product of the Year is another story: aluminium sats they might be, but expect a superbly balanced and integrated sound, with proper bottom end from the substantial sub.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
COMPACT SPEAKER PACKAGE
MORDAUNT-SHORT GENIE

ProAc Response Hexa 5.1	2496	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best compact package over £1000 in Awards 2004	100	86	8	22x14x15	14x33x15	22x14x15	48x42x11	●	4
Richard Allan AV Micra	329	Awd.94	★★★★★	Ridiculously affordable with five speakers and a sub.	40	86	8	23x14x12	14x23x12	23x14x12	40x24x23		Gy
Richard Allan AV-1 SE	499	10.96	★★★★☆	A fine starter AV kit with a big sound and strong build	40	86	8	30x16x20	16x30x20	23x14x13	25x50x25	●	Gy
Richard Allan AV-1 System	399	06.94	★★★★★	Good bass weight and involving sound. A bargain.	40	86	8	30x16x20	14x23x13	23x14x13	25x50x25	●	Gy
Ruark Acoustics Vita 120	1700	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Long-running compact package - still a class act.	120	86	6	20x11x16	20x32x16	20x11x16	37x30x30	●	2
Scandyna Micropod 5.1	550	09.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Some may sound better but few look as good as these.	100	87	4	15x13x12	15x13x12	15x13x12	37x30x37		4
Triangle Galaxy 5.1	800	01.04/FT	★★★★☆	This package sounds great with both films and music.	75	90	8	20x13x12	20x13x12	20x13x12	32x32x32		Sl
Wharfedale Diamond 9 HCP	500	Awd.04	★★★★★	Best compact package up to £500 in Awards 2004.	75	86	6	24x15x17	12x33x13	24x15x17	33x33x36		4
Zingali Colosseum Kit Sat L	1400	02.05/FT	★★★☆☆	Look appealing but let down in the sound department.	50	89	6	25x10x15	10x46x15	17x10x15	No		6

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
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★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
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REPRINTS
08456 777813

Full-size speaker packages

Larger surround sound speaker systems for better-quality sound

BUDGET Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	System max power (w)	Lowest sens (db/w/m)	Nominal imp (ohms)	DIMENSIONS (hwd) Front	Centre	Rear	Subwoofer	Biwire	Finishes
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B	950	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Best full-size package under £1000 in Awards 2004.	150	88	8	88x22x19	17x46x19	36x19x24	36x38x31	●	2
Acoustic Energy Aelite 5.1	1895	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Brilliant performers they just melt into the background.	175	89	6	23x92x30	45x18x30	19x29x23	49x37x37	●	3
ATC C1 Collection	2123	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	Compact, but this set is capable of sounding huge.	300	84	8	30x16x21	16x60x21	30x16x21	44x35x35	●	3

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Full-size speaker packages continued...

Larger surround sound speaker systems for better-quality sound

BUDGET Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	System max power (w)	Lowest sens (db/w/m)	Nominal imp (ohms)	DIMENSIONS (hwd) Front	Centre	Rear	Subwoofer	Biwire	Finishes
B&W 704 System	4000	Awd.04	★★★★★	Superb speakers that can make an incredible impact.	120	89	8	96x22x32	31x45x29	30x38x17	44x40x48	●	5
B&W DM 603 S3 (7 speakers)	1850	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	Amazes - needs space to be heard at its best.	100	88	8	91x20x29	20x54x31	29x17x22	34x34x41	●	2
B&W DM300 series	900	02.03/FT	★★★★★	A superb set-up but too big for some rooms.	100	88	8	91x20x31	15x42x21	33x20x24	41x33x38	●	2
B&W DM600 series	1000	07.02/ST	★★★★★	A beautiful B&W system and it sounds great.	150	89	8	91x20x29	20x54x31	29x17x22	No	●	2
Canton CD300/360F/AS200SC	2700	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Brings high style to audio's high brow.	170	n/a	4	120x12x16	12x120x16	120x12x16	45x30x47		2
Crane Audio Oceana 3	800	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Stirring system and one of the best-looking.	100	89	8	91x13x14	49x13x14	25x13x14	25x44x35		Al
Crane Audio Oceana 5	1200	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Sexy and offers much, but it's not a class-leader.	100	88	8	105x19x20	19x58x20	30x19x20	25x44x35		Al
DALI Concept	1293	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	Refined, inoffensive listen, with movies especially.	100	87	8	93x20x26	16x50x23	31x17x19	41x38x42		2
DALI Suite	2074	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Does many things very well.	80	86	4	88x17x31	16x56x32	33x24x14	41x38x42	●	2
Eltax Summit 5.0/Impact 10	500	04.04/ST	★★★☆☆	A steal but it doesn't hang together too well.	130	87	8	84x21x25	14x36x20	20x14x20	35x35x35	●	Bch
Gale HT30.1	300	10.03/FT	★★★☆☆	The subwoofer sounds muffled instead of tight.	80	85	8	22x13x15	12x43x18	22x13x15	31x31x31		2
Heybrook HB3/C1/.5/S200	980	07.02/ST	★★★★☆	Strong value - best with aggresive sounding kit.	90	89	6	90x24x29	18x46x22	30x17x20	42x32x34	●	2
Jamo D7PEX	4499	02.03/FT	★★★★☆	Seven speakers and two subwoofers - good value.	100	87	4	27x59x17	27x59x17	27x51x13	49x59x44		Bk
JMlab Chorus (714S/70/7005)	1356	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Perfect for multichannel music enthusiasts.	80	8	90	90x20x27	16x44x25	90x20x27	34x32x38		3
JPW 203/208/201	457	04.04/ST	★★★☆☆	An assembly of components that fail to enthrall.	60	90	6	85x21x30	18x46x23	26x15x24	No		2
KEF Q7 AV	2300	08.03/ST	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Highly competent.	120	91	8	95x26x35	20x48x27	22x44x21	36x50x33	●	3
M&K 750THX	2715	06.99/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Absolutely stunning.	200	90	4	41x18x22	18x40x22	26x18x22	46x39x58		Bk
M&K 850/CS35/V-850	3900	07.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Highly innovative.	200	90	4	41x18x22	18x41x22	88x23x11	47x39x52		3
Mission 78se series	2650	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	Highly effective tweaks make the 78-series sing.	150	87	6	80x17x30	17x45x20	28x17x26	34x61x28	●	Ald
Mission Elegante e82	3990	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Best full-size package over £2000 in Awards 2004	150	85	8	96x30x33	17x44x25	28x16x25	42x37x40	●	Gry
Mission m31i Cinema	879	02.05/FT	★★★★★	One of the finest-sounding we've heard at the price.	75	88	8	95x20x30	17x43x23	26x17x28	41x28x50	●	4
Monitor Audio Bronze B2 AV	800	03.04/FT	★★★★★	Integration, crisp detail and lively dynamics.	80	88	6	35x19x25	16x46x16	29x29x13	32x32x34	●	Va
Monitor Audio Bronze B4 AV	950	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Gives a rollercoaster ride through music and movies.	80	91	6	85x19x26	16x46x16	29x29x13	32x32x34	●	Va
Monitor Audio GR20 AV	2800	10.02/FT	★★★★☆	This is a quality package with plenty of appeal.	100	88	6	93x20x30	20x56x23	23x36x18	n/a	●	4
Mordaunt-Short 500 THX (7 spk)	1780	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	A movies-first system - a great value solution.	150	90	4	95x18x35	18x50x20	36x33x19	built in	●	2
Mordaunt-Short 500 THX Select	1600	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. A top-quality package.	150	90	4	95x18x35	18x50x20	36x33x19	built in	●	2
Mordaunt-Short Avant 5.1	780	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Great-value - builds on strengths of the MS309 sub.	100	87	4	80x17x34	17x49x20	23x22x15	37x37x37		2
Mordaunt-Short Premiere	400	12.02/ST	★★★★☆	Strong performance in stereo and surround.	80	86	4	18x11x13	11x28x13	18x11x13	31.31.31		2
Mordaunt-Short Premiere Plus	550	10.03/FT	★★★★☆	As cinematic experiences go this is a class act.	80	86	4	18x11x13	11x28x13	18x11x13	37x37x37		3
PMC FB1/TB2/2M-C/TLE-1	4162	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Great package in many ways, and terrific fun.	150	90	8	103x20x30	20x40x30	40x20x30	55x20x55	●	2
Quad L Series (12L/11L/L Sub)	1930	Awd.04	★★★★★	Full-size package Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	150	86	6	33x21x25	31x19x24	33x21x25	53x34x47	●	4

Quad L Series (12L/11L/Lsub)

Quads 11L standmount speakers and the L Subwoofer are Award-winners in their own rights, the 11Ls several years running - while the 12L speakers have been widely praised during their lifetime. Needless to say, the L Centre complements the system superbly. Beautiful to look at, to hear and – undoubtedly – to own!

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
FULL-SIZE SPEAKER PACKAGE
QUAD 12L/L CENTRE/11L/L SUBWOOFER

Ruark Acoust. Prologue II (7 spk)	3165	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	An appealing solution with extra Epilogue II surrounds	120	87	6	96x21x24	17x45x19	27x19x23	42x43x43	●	4
Tannoy Eyris	2250	10.02/FT	★★★★☆	Better for music, including multichannel, than movies	75	88	8	102x20x26	21x43x26	24x28x17	n/a	●	2
Titan Logic	2000	05.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Different, but there's stiff competition. Was £3100.	100	87	8	41x24x30	18x46x17	41x24x30	42x56x56	●	6
Triad Silver Series	4180	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Great for home cinema, but for music it can be beaten	125	83	4	48x22x24	22x48x24	36x34x9	41x40x39		22
Vienna Schönb./Web/Berg/Sub	3700	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Stylish speakers that sound amazingly good.	180	91	4	105x27x9	27x50x9	27x21x9	40x64x22		Al

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
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★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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REPRINTS 08456 777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Full-size speaker packages continued...

Larger surround sound speaker systems for better-quality sound

BUDGET Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	System max power (w)	Lowest sens (db/w/m)	Nominal imp (ohms)	DIMENSIONS (hwd) Front	Centre	Rear	Subwoofer	Biwire	Finishes
Wharfedale Dia 9.4/9CS/9.1	995	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	An involving sound but not an all-rounder.	100	86	6	80x22x30	19x40x23	30x19x28	42x42x38	●	5
Wharfedale Diamond Cinema	400	09.01/FT	★★★★★	Look and sound more expensive than they are.	100	86	6	80x21x26	18x45x18	30x20x18	n/a		2
Wharfedale Evolution Cinema	1150	10.03/FT	★★★★☆	Great - add a subwoofer and you're in business.	100	88	6	88x23x40	17x42x30	37x35x16	n/a	●	Va

Multimedia speaker packages

Add surround sound to your PC, DVD player or games console

BUDGET Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	System max power (w)	Lowest sens (db/w/m)	Lowest Imp (ohms)	DIMENSIONS (hwd) Front	Centre	Rear	Sub	Biwire	Finishes
Altec Lansing 251	80	06.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Budget price, but it won't win prizes for performance.	60	-	-	14x10x9	14x10x9	14x10x9	28x18x19		2
Altec Lansing 5100	100	06.04/GT	★★★★☆	Check it out if you're not bothered about low-end grunt.	73	70	4	18x6x6	7x16x5	18x6x6	30x17x34		Al
Creative T5400	100	06.04/GT	★★★☆☆	A reasonably detailed and dynamic 5.1 product.	22	-	-	14x9x8	14x9x8	14x9x8	29x18x27		Bk
Eclipse TD TD307 PAWH	400	02.05/GT	★★★★☆	Stunning sonic image when used with an MP3 player.	12/A12	80	8	12x16x16	-	-	14x15x15		3
JBL On Tour	70	02.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Boombox affair for use with MP3s, CD and computers.	A3	-	-	4x18x9	-	-	-		Wt
Logic3 iStation	60	02.05/GT	★★★★☆	Aimed at iPod owners - 2.1 unit with docking station.	A6/A6	-	-	14x20x4(unit)	-	-	inc		Wt
Logitech Logitech X-620	100	06.04/GT	★★★☆☆	6.1 - gamers will surely enjoy the booming bass.	7.5	-	-	13x10x11	13x10x11	13x10x11	23x22x24		Bk
Logitech Z5300	200	06.04/GT	★★★★☆	Big, powerful 5.1 system with lashings of bass.	35	-	-	20x10x9	13x17x8	20x10x9	30x30x37		Bk
Trust 4500P	60	06.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	Spend more and spare yourself the sonic experience.	15	-	-	16x10x10	16x10x10	16x10x10	18x19x31		Bk

Home cinema in a box (with DVD)

Instant surround sound solutions for maximum convenience and style

BUDGET Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Power (w)	PLAYS DVD-A	SACD	MP3	DVD+R/+RW	DVD-R/-RW	DVD-RAM	SURROUND MODES Pro-Logic II	Pro-Logic IIx	Dolby Digital EX	DTS Neo:6	DTS-ES Matrix	DTS-ES Discrete	DTS 96/24	Composite out	Component out	S-Video out	RGB Scart out	Audio outs/ins
Bose 3.2.1	1250	05.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Virtual surround - effects don't entirely convince.	N/A			●											●		●		1
Bose Lifestyle 18	1900	11.03/FT	★★★☆☆	We like it, but the performance is around for less.	200			●											●	●	●		8
Denon ADV-1000/SC-50	900	01.03/ST	★★★★☆	A durable, classy, refined and effective Denon system.	2x25			●				●							●		●	●	4
Denon ADV-M71	570	10.03/FT	★★★★☆	Effective virtual surround and an excellent picture.	2x25			●				●							●		●	●	5
Denon ADV-M71/2.1	750	05.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Virtual surround but this system doesn't quite deliver.	35	●		●				●							●		●	●	2
Denon D-M51DVS	500	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Likeable 2.1 system, commendable in Dolby Virtual mode.	2x35/A100			●		●		●							●		●	●	2
Denon DHT-500SD	500	09.04/ST	★★★★★	All-in-one system Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	6x100			●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2

Denon DHT-500SD

Our all-in-one Product of the Year proves that home cinema in a box systems don't have to compromise on features or performance. Great pictures and sound from this good-looking, slimline package – this is as close to budget separates as you can get from an all-in-one-system. Highly recommended!

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
ALL-IN-ONE SYSTEMS
DENON DHT-500SD

Denon DHT-550SD	750	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Doesn't quite justify the extra £250 over the DHT-500SD.	6x100			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	19
Denon DVD-770SD/AVR-770SD	650	04.04/GT	★★★★★	Very fine system with style and performance to spare.	6x100	●	●	●				●							●	●	●		7
Jamo DVR50/A305PDD 5.1	649	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive, but the A355 PDD package is better.	5x50			●	●	●		●							●	●	●	●	5
Jamo DVR50/A325PDD	799	11.03/FT	★★★★☆	Great blend of minimalist style and performance.	5x50			●	●	●		●							●	●	●	●	5
Jamo DVR50/A355PDD	899	12.03/GT	★★★★★	A lot of thought has clearly gone into this cracking kit.	5x50			●	●	●		●							●	●	●	●	5
JVC EX-A1	400	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Short of cash or space? Try this unique looking solution.	2x30														●	●		●	2
JVC QP-D7AL	450	02.05/GT	★★★★☆	Cute and effective system which includes a DVD recorder.	5x50			●		●	●	●						●		●		●	4
JVC TH-SW8	400	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	A bargain - our wireless home cinema choice.	540	●		●		●		●							●	●		●	2
KEF KIT 100	1200	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best home cinema in a box over £1000 in Awards 2004.	4x40/60			●	●	●		●							●	●	●	●	3
Linn Classik Movie Di	2500	02.03/GT	★★★☆☆	This is a neat solution, but limited video performance.	40x5			●				●							●	●	●	●	10
NAD L70	700	Awd.03	★★☆☆☆	For this price you can buy a DVD player and receiver.	5x45			●				●							●	●	●	●	8
Nakamichi SoundSpace 8½	3000	01.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Capable of good results - but it's far from cheap.	5x10			●				●							●	●	●		5
Panasonic SC-HT870	450	02.05/ST	★★★★☆	Good performer, but it's ultimately under specified.	1000	●		●		●	●	●							●	●	●	●	4
Panasonic SC-PM39	250	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Best home cinema in a box under £300 in Awards 2004.	2x60	●		●			●								●		●	●	1
Panasonic SCHT25R	600	02.05/GT	★★★★☆	Above-average package which includes a DVD recorder.	5x55			●		●	●	●							●	●	●	●	
Philips LX7500R	650	02.05/GT	★★★★★	Great to use, fine sound, looks good and records DVD well .	5x100			●		●		●								●	●	●	2
Pioneer DCS-525	500	12.04/ST	★★☆☆☆	Not good enough to challenge the class-leaders.	6x70			●		●		●							●		●	●	4
Pioneer DV-565A/VSX-C501	650	04.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2003, but can now be bettered.	6x100	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	7
Pioneer NS-DV1000	1100	12.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Ideal for some but we think that it costs too much.	6x60	●	●	●		●		●							●		●	●	5
Pioneer NS-DV99	500	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Nifty Pioneer universal player with remote display.	6x60	●	●	●		●		●							●		●	●	5
Pioneer NS-DV990	800	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	It has plenty going for it, whether for movies or music.	6x60	●	●	●		●		●							●		●	●	5
Pioneer RCS-9H	1000	02.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	The only thing that impresses is its capacious hard disk.	5x100			●		●		●							●		●	●	6
Samsung HT-DS460	350	09.04/ST	★★★★☆	Not a true 5.1 system, but it's accomplished and a bargain.	5x60			●		●		●							●	●	●	●	1
Sharp SD-PX15H	500	09.04/ST	★★★☆☆	Sleek and stylish on the outside but it's ordinary inside.	6x35	●	●	●		●		●							●		●	●	1
Sony DAV-SR4W	750	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Best home cinema in a box £600-£1000 in Awards 2004.	5x114/A115		●	●	●	●		●		●	●							●	2

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS 08456777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Home cinema in a box (with DVD) cont...

Instant surround sound solutions for maximum convenience and style

BUDGET Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Power (w)	PLAYS: DVD-A	SACD	MP3	DVD+R/+RW	DVD-R/-RW	DVD-RAM	SURROUND MODES: Pro-Logic II	Pro-Logic IIx	Dolby Digital EX	DTS Neo:6	DTS-ES Matrix	DTS-ES Discrete	DTS 96/24	Composite out	Component out	S-Video out	RGB Scart out	Audio outs/ins
TEAC DV-L800/AG-L800	900	04.04/GT	★★★★☆	Looks good, but it is no advance on cheaper rivals.	6x50			●				●	●	●					●	●	●	●	6
TEAC Legacy 700/LS-L800	1100	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year Awards 2003. Great all-round.	30x5/A100			●		●		●							●	●	●	●	8
TEAC Legacy 800/LS-L800	1300	Awd.03	★★★★☆	Cracking system with the right mix of style and substance.	5x50			●				●							●		●		8
Technics SC-DV290	500	09.04/ST	★★☆☆☆	Mini-system that happens to play DVDs - acts like one too.	5x35	●		●		●	●								●		●	●	
Toshiba SD-44HK	229	01.05/FT	★★★★★	Phenomenal value - excellent picture and musical sound.	5x60/A120	●		●		●									●	●	●	●	2
Toshiba SD-63HK	400	09.04/ST	★★★☆☆	Competitively priced but we'd expect better performance.	5x60/A100			●		●		●							●	●	●	●	4
Yamaha DVX-S200	450	09.04/ST	★★★★★	Excellent sound and progressive scan pictures.	5x100		●	●		●		●				●			●	●	●	●	2
Yamaha DVX-S80	699	01.03/ST	★★★★☆	Looks and sounds good, and provides decent pictures.	40			●				●							●		●		2

Home cinema in a box

Surround sound add-ons for those who already own a DVD player

BUDGET Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Power (w)	SURROUND MODES: Pro-Logic II	Pro-Logic IIx	Dolby Digital EX	DTS NEO:6	DTS-ES Matrix	DTS-ES Discrete	DTS 96/24	Composite out	Component out	S-Video out	RGB Scart out	Audio outs/ins
Acoustic Energy Aego P5 MkII	500	08.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Admirable performer but it doesn't look like good value.	125	●											3
Creative Inspire 5.1 Dig 5700	250	06.02/ST	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Excellent decoding and powerful sound.	4xA7												1
Klegg M6 501R	399	06.02/ST	★★★☆☆	Tiny egg-shaped speakers will win fans, but sonic performance lags behind.	5x30												2
Klegg M6-501P	549	04.03/GT	★★★☆☆	The Klegg is a sexy decoder/speaker package, but not ideal for long-term.	5x30												5
Klegg M8 501	700	01.03/FT	★★★★★	Comprehensive and competent package with good power and drive.	5x100	●											5
Logitech Z-680	299	11.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Lots of features including THX certification, but it could sound better.	5x53	●											4
Scan AV-6	120	06.02/ST	★★★☆☆	More PC than hi-fi, the Scan AV-6 is a slightly uninspiring surround solution.	8												4
Xanthos SpeedLink 5.1	400	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Plenty to recommend in this set-up with wireless rear speakers.	90												6

Widescreen TVs

Conventional TVs that offer great performance and value

BUDGET Up to £5500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Screen size (in)	DECODING: Intergrated digital	Dolby Digital	DTS	Pro Logic II	Pro Logic	Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	Phono in	Phono out	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
Beko 284248WNS	240	UTV.03	★★★☆☆	For the price it's reasonable, especially with DVDs.	28								●	●			●		71x51x49	37
Beko 324250WNS	350	UTV.04	★★★☆☆	Doesn't match the clarity and stability of others.	32								●	●					86x55x58	49
Bush DVD760 DVD/TV	799	09.01/FT	★★★★☆	Appeals on price but separates would be better.	32								●				●		37x22x18	n/a
Bush RF6682VPL	400	UTV.04	★★★☆☆	Good for the price, but picture noise lets it down.	28								●						87x55x55	56
Bush RF6685VPL	300	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Much better picture than the price might imply.	28										●	●		●	48x78x50	40
Bush RP40TV (rear projection)	700	12.04/FT	★☆☆☆☆	Big and cheap, but the picture just isn't good enough.	40								●				●	●	89x94x50	49
Bush WS6673	299	09.01/GT	★★★★☆	Great value - combines good picture and sound.	28								●	●			●		77x57x47	34
Bush WS6680	250	05.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Won't worry the market leaders, but good value.	28								●						75x56x43	37.5
Daewoo DSC-3210EGB	350	UTV.03	★★★☆☆	A decent set , but £100 more will take you up a league.	32								●	●			●		57x89x56	58
Daewoo DWX2880GB (DTY2880)	200	UTV.03	★★☆☆☆	Extremely cheap but performace is lacklustre.	28								●						51x84x51	32
Goodmans GTV69RF2	350	05.04/GT	★★★★☆	Overall, a very competitive television for the money.	28								●	●					79x57x50	41
Goodmans GTV69W2DT	330	10.04/ST	★★★★☆	Sensibly priced integrated digital TV.	28							●	●			●			78x53x47	34
LG RE28FZ10	440	07.03/ST	★★☆☆☆	Reasonable value, but the picture disappoints.	28								●	●	●		●	●	57x81x51	50
Loewe Aconda 9381HD/DR+	1900	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Best CRT TV/recorder combination in Awards 2004.	32								●	●	●	●	●	●	63x86x58	55
Loewe Articos 55 (rear-proj)	4750	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Unusual but impressive, a good picture for its size.	55						●	●	●		●		●	●	15x18x9	123

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Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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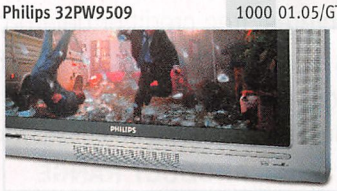
Widescreen TVs continued...

Conventional TVs that offer great performance and value

BUDGET Up to £5500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Screen size (in)	Intergrated digital	Dolby Digital	DTS	Pro Logic II	Pro Logic	Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	Phono in	Phono out	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
					DECODING								INPUTS & OUTPUTS							
Loewe Aventos 3981 ZW	999	04.03/FT	★★★★☆	Sounds great, but pipped for picture by its rivals.	32								●	●	●	●	●		60x81x56	53
Loewe Mimo 32	1350	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Unusual design, as much about performance as looks.	32								●						61x81x57	60.5
Loewe Nemos 32	1200	01.05/ST	★★★★☆	Not cheap, but a hugely desirable and flexible package.	32								●	●		●	●		60x90x55	57
Panasonic TX-28PM11	525	08.04/FT	★★★★★	Excellent, at this price it is a steal.	28								●	●		●	●	●	49x77x53	55
Panasonic TX-32DTX40	950	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Best digital TV in Awards 2004. Great digital solution.	32	●							●	●		●	●	●	91x57x55	60
Panasonic TX-32PD30	1400	02.04/ST	★★★★★	Sensational sound and looks, and great performance.	32						●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	58x80x53	59
Panasonic TX-36PD30	1650	09.03/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in Awards 2003. Great picture.	36						●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	59x90x65	81
Panasonic TX32PD50	1100	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Excellent - it's not cheap but it is a great buy.	32						●	●	●	●	●	●			58x80x53	59
Philips 32PW9509	1000	01.05/GT	★★★★★	CRT TV Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	32								●	●		●	●		55x54x86	59



Philips 32PW9509

Bad news? Well there are no component inputs, so you can't get progressive scan images from a compatible DVD player – but hold your horses, the pictures from this TV are the best we've ever seen anyway, so what choice did we have but to give it our CRT TV Product of the Year gong? Sound and style are top-notch, too.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
CRT TV
PHILIPS 32PW9509

Sagem Axium	2800	UTV.04	★★★☆☆	Consider for maximum screen area for your money.	50						●		●	●	●			●	90x116x37	42
Samsung SP50L7HX (rear-proj)	3500	01.05/FT	★★★★★	Gorgeous, and very impressive too.	50						●		●	●	●	●	●		136x52x139	78
Samsung WS-32M64V	680	UTV.03	★★★☆☆	Not bad, but off-air signal is mildly disappointing.	32								●						57x92x58	57.5
Samsung WS-32Z108R	1700	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	Convenient kit with built-in 40GB hard-disk recorder.	32		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●				89.56.57	62
Sanyo CE28WN6	400	UTV.03	★★★☆☆	Fair performer, but we'd recommend you spend more.	28							●	●	●			●		52x79x50	34.5
SIM2 Domino 55 (rear-proj)	5000	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Intriguing and effective alternative to a plasma TV.	55						●	●	●	●		●	●		98x132x41	54
SIM2 RTX55H(rear-projection)	7000	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Solid claim to the best big-screen TV in the world.	55						●	●	●	●	●	●			122x150x42	85
Sony KD-28DX200	950	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Stylish design and stunning pictures.	28	●							●	●		●			59x91x59	71
Thomson 28WF401G	450	07.03/ST	★★★☆☆	Fails to deliver - picture performance is below-par.	28								●			●		●	79x52x52	40
Thomson 28WH201S	400	UTV.04	★★★☆☆	Decent, but more cash buys better performance.	28								●						77x50x50	40
Thomson 32WH403S	700	UTV.04	★★★☆☆	Powerful sound but there are better at this price.	32								●						90x56x56	56
Toshiba 32ZH46	829	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	Sleek, capable performer at an enticing price.	32								●			●	●		55x74x55	50
Toshiba 36ZP48	1700	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Big picture but hasn't got unrivalled quality on its side.	36		●				●	●	●	●		●			86x114x60	76

Plasma TVs

Slimline, stylish televisions available in huge screen sizes

BUDGET Up to £6000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Screen size (in)	Integrated tuner	Resolution (wd)	Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	Phono in	Dimensions (hwd)	Weight (kg)
										INPUTS						
Fujitsu P42HHA30	3995	07.04/ST	★★★★☆	Provides the blueprint for other brands - no integrated tuner.	42		1024x1024	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	64x104x9	30
Goodmans GTV42P2	1500	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Big-screen thrills for those on a meagre budget.	42	●	852x480			●					66x106x6	45
Hitachi 42PD5200	3000	07.04/ST	★★★★☆	Outstanding value - great specifications and performance.	42	●	1024x1024	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	103x64x9	35
Hitachi 42PD5300	3100	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Offers good performance and great value.	42	●	1024x1024	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	24x43x9	3.2
Hitachi 55PMA550E	6000	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Excellent choice if you want a TV screen this big.	55		1366x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	86x139x11	63.5
NEC 42VP4	2995	UTV.03	★★☆☆☆	Simply can't match the standards set by its price rivals.	42		853x480	●	●		●	●	●	●	61x102x9	29
NEC 42XM2	3995	01.04/ST	★★★★☆	Very impressive and thoroughly competent performance.	42		1024x768	●	●		●	●	●	●	61x102x9	29.5
Panasonic TH-42PE30B	3300	10.04/ST	★★★★★	LCD/plasma TV Product of the Year in Awards 2004. Gorgeous	42	●	852x480	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	76x114x14	41

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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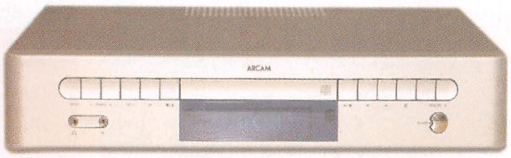

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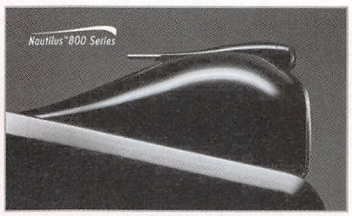
B&W Nautilus - *Ex-Display Offers*



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	was	now
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Nautilus 804 - Cherry	(2500.00)	£1695.00
Nautilus 803 - Cherry	(3500.00)	£2390.00
Nautilus 802 - Cherry	(6000.00)	£3950.00

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Naim CDX/2 CD Player	(2700.00)	£2095.00
NAC 202 Preamplifier	(1400.00)	£1095.00
NAC 282 Preamplifier	(2830.00)	£2190.00
NAC 252 Preamplifier	(4100.00)	£3190.00
NAP 200 Power Amp	(1385.00)	£1079.00
NAP 250/2 Power amp	(2315.00)	£1795.00
Hi-Cap/2 Power Supply	(925.00)	£695.00
SuperCap/2 Power Supply	(2775.00)	£2095.00
Ariva Speakers (Maple/Ch)	(1250.00)	£925.00

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THE A LIST

Denon DM31/SCM51 CD System	£249.00
Arcam DiVA CD73T CD Player	£399.00
Arcam DiVA CD192T CD Player ***NEW!***	£849.00
Arcam FMJ DV29 DVD HDMI Player ***NEW!***	£1599.00
Arcam DiVA DV78 DVD (M/Region)	£699.00
Linn Genki CD Player	£995.00
Linn Exotik Preamp ***NEW!***	£1750.00
Linn Classik Music System	£799.00
Quad CDP99 CD Player	£999.00
Naim CD 5X Player ***NEW!***	£1450.00
Naim Nait 5i Amplifier	£699.00
Naim NAC 202 Preamp	£1375.00
Naim NAP 200 Power Amp	£1345.00
Naim Ariva Speakers ***NEW!***	£1250.00
Pure DRX 701ES DAB Tuner	£224.00
Quad 99 Power Amplifier	£549.00
Rotel RCD-02 CD Player	£379.00
Rotel RA-02 Amplifier	£349.00
Goldring GR1 T/T inc RB250 arm ***NEW!***	£149.00
Pro-ject Debut MM inc Arm/Cart	£115.00
Sugden Bijou Amp & Preamp	£1228.00
B&W DM 601/3 Speakers	£249.00
B&W 705 Speakers ***NEW!***	£900.00
B&W VM1 lifestyle 5 Spkr+Sub	£850.00
KEF KTH2005-2 lifestyle 5 Spkr+Sub	£799.00
Linn Katan Speakers	£650.00
Quad 11L Speakers	£379.00

E&OE - Arcam, KEF - Shop callers only

Ex-Display & Pre-Owned

Arcam DV88 DVD player S/H (new 999)	**£349.00**
Arcam DV89 DVD-A Player (was 1299)	**£619.00**
Arcam CD82 CD Player (was 599)	**£419.00**
Arcam CD93 CD Player (was 949)	**£579.00**
Arcam AVR200 Receiver S/H (was 799)	**£379.00**
Arcam P90 Power Amp S/H (new 549)	**£349.00**
Denon AVR 2803 AV Receiver (was 649)	**£399.00**
Linn Majik Phono Amplifier (was 945)	**£529.00**
Linn Kairn Pro Preamp (was 1400)	**£599.00**
Linn Keltik Spkrs inc cards (was 6000)	**£1995.00**
Naim CD3.5 CD Player S/H (new 899)	**£475.00**
Naim NAC112 Preamplifier (new 675)	**£350.00**
Naim XPS Power Suppy S/H (new 2100)	**£1375.00**
Naim NAC82 Preamplifier S/H (new 2500)	**£1575.00**
Naim XPS2 Power Supply (was 2390)	**£1575.00**
Naim NAP250 P/Amp S/H (new 1910)	**£895.00**
Naim NAP135 Power Amps (new 5020)	**£1590.00**
Naim NBL Speaker - Beech (was 7700)	**£4995.00**
ProAc Studio 125 Spkrs Maple (was 999)	**£695.00**
Spendor S8 Speakers - Cherry (was 1699)	**£999.00**
Yamaha RXV630 RDS AV Amp (was 459)	**£299.00**
Vibe Zeta Subwoofer Blk (was 600)	**£399.00**

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Plasma TVs continued...

Slimline, stylish televisions available in huge screen sizes

BUDGET Up to £6000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Screen size (in)	Integrated tuner	Resolution (wd)	INPUTS: Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	Phono in	Dimensions (hwd)	Weight (kg)
Panasonic TH-50PV30	5500	UTV.04	★★★★☆	Terrifically attractive package with integral Freeview TV tuner.	50	●	1366x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	87x132x10	55
Panasonic Viera TH-37PE30	3000	01.05/GT	★★★★★	The performance is a match for its great styling.	37	●	852x480			●	●	●	●		70x104x10	35
Pioneer PDP-435FDE	3700	10.04/FT	★★★☆☆	A bit of a let down - it lacks the hoped-for visual sparkle.	43	●	1024x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65x112x9	26.8
Pioneer PDP-435XDE	3500	02.05/GT	★★★★★	Stunning design and peerless pictures via the HDMI input.	43	●	1024x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65x112x9	27

Pioneer PDP-435XDE

We billed one of this Pioneer's predecessors as "the best plasma ever" – and this is a title that could now be passed down to this PDP-435XDE. In order to get the best from it you'll need an HDMI or DVI-compatible DVD player, but when you match it with one of those then the results are pretty spectacular.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION BEST IN CLASS

Pioneer PDP-504HDE	6000	02.04/FT	★★★★☆	Superb with DVDs but emphasises flaws in UK TV broadcasts.	50		1280x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	74x127x10	38
Sony KDE-P37XS1	3400	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Best LCD/plasma TV 36-42in in Awards 2004.	37	●	1024x1024	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	69x114x29	38
Sony KDE-P42XS1	4300	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Stylish with beautifully detailed and natural pictures but pricey.	42	●	1024x1024	●	●	●	●	●		●	75x123x29	39
Thomson 42WB02S	3200	UTV.03	★★☆☆☆	Very stylish, but the picture performance lets it down.	42	●	852x480			●					104x65x10	31.2
Thomson 42WM03ST	3000	07.04/ST	★★☆☆☆	There are much better performing plasmas around at the price.	42	●	852x480	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65x104x10	31
Tiny Focus 4200	1269	02.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Unfortunately, the price is the only competitive thing about it.	42	●	853x480	●	●	●	●	●			105x64x8.5	30
Toshiba 42WP46	2199	02.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Below-average price but sadly the performance is a mixed bag.	42	●	852x480	●	●	●	●			●	76x127x32	51
Yamaha PDM-4210	3995	07.04/ST	★★★★☆	Fine performer in every sense - in the upper echelon of plasmas.	42	●	1024x1024	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	64x 103 X9	35.2

LCD TVs

Slim TVs on offer in every size from portable to big-screen

BUDGET Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Screen size (in)	Aspect ratio	Resolution	INPUTS: Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	Phono in	Dimension (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
B&O BeoVision 6-22	2615	UTV.04	★★★★☆	Expensive but utterly gorgeous piece of vision kit.	22	16:9	1280x720			●				●	59x48x16	18
B&O BeoVision 6-26	3250	02.05/FT	★★★☆☆	Good picture and sound but it carries a hefty price tag.	26	16:9	1280x720			●				●	58x71x18	24
Bush LCD15TV	380	12.03/ST	★★★★☆	Offers a price-to-performance ratio that nothing else can match.	15	4:3	1042x768			●					38x38x17	5
Bush LCD23TV	1000	06.04/ST	★★★☆☆	Good size and price but the tuner lets the picture down.	23	16:9	1024x768	●	●	●		●			44x68x22	11
Goodmans GTV17WLCD	450	UTV.03	★★☆☆☆	Pleasing picture but there are some reliability concerns.	17	16:9	1042x768			●					52x34x20	6.3
Hitachi 28LD5200E	2100	09.04/GT	★★★★☆	Not the most elegant but picture detail and feature list is good.	28	16:9	1280x768			●	●	●	●	●	52x85x28	21.9
Humax LB-17E	650	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Decent prospect, especially as it has a digital tuner built in.	17	16:9	1280x768			●	●		●		40x25x27	1.9
Iiyama ProLite C171WT	435	12.04/ST	★★☆☆☆	Affordable but not good enough - poor picture blights the set.	17	16:9	1280-768				●	●	●	●	33x52x20	9
Iiyama ProLite C480T	750	12.03/ST	★★★★☆	Offers good connectivity and high performance standards.	19	4:3	1280x1024	●	●		●	●		●	40x56x19	9
Iiyama ProLite L403W	4346	08.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Poor-quality, its overpriced, overweight and looks awful.	40	16:9	1280x768	●	●	●	●		●	●	59x94x11	35
JVC LT-17E31	800	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Cheaper rival models offer better performance.	17	16:9	1280x768			●	●		●	●	33x47x8	7
LG RZ-23LZ20	1500	06.04/ST	★★★☆☆	On the expensive side and performance fails to be competitive.	23	16:9	1280x768			●				●	52x60x20	10
Loewe Spheros 37 HD/DR+	5500	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Very tempting - this version has a hard disk recorder/internet.	37	16:9	1366x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	68x99x9	31
Loewe Xelos SL 37HD/DR+	4299	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	Offers the potential of lots of extras under one TV roof.	37	16:9	1366X768	●	●	●	●	●	●		68x99x9	22
Loewe Xelos SL20	1199	06.04/ST	★★★★☆	Bit of a head-turner in both design and performance stakes.	20	4:3	640x480			●				●	54x54x26	9
McPerson Softech 32	2200	UTV.04	★★★☆☆	Audition if you value style as highly as the picture quality.	32	16:9	1280x768			●					78x89x13	16
Panasonic TX-32LXD1	2800	10.04/GT	★★★★☆	Clear winner for style and quality content.	32	15:9	1280x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	65x100x32	27
Panasonic Viera TX-26LXD1	2300	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Best LCD/plasma TV 20-30in in Awards 2004. Inc. digital tuner.	26	16:9	1280x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	57x84x32	22.5

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RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

LCD TVs continued...

Slim TVs on offer in every size from portable to big-screen

BUDGET Up to £5000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Screen size (in)	Aspect ratio	Resolution	INPUTS: Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	Phono in	Dimension (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
Philips 17PF9946	700	12.04/ST	★★★★☆	Gorgeous aesthetics and the picture quality is good.	17	16:9	1280x768			●	●		●	●	45x33x18	5
Philips 32PF9986	3000	09.04/FT	★★★★★	One of the finest. Has picture-enhancing that actually works.	32	16:9	1366x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	61x100x10	20
Philips 37PF9986	4000	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	The high price and some picture problems mean it's outgunned.	37	16:9	1366 x 768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	68x113x10	27
Philips 42PF9986	6000	Awd.04	★★★☆☆	Big on screen size but small on performance.	42	16:9	1366x768	●	●	●	●			●	76x124x10	35
Relisys RLT1720	400	12.04/ST	★★☆☆☆	Rockbottom price but picture quality really isn't good enough.	17	16:9	1280x768				●	●	●	●	33x52x20	5
Roadstar LCD7269 (portable)	200	07.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Its appeal depends entirely on how essential TV is to you.	7	16:9								●	26x31x4	7
Sanyo CE30LD3B	2000	01.05/FT	★★☆☆☆	Class-leaders at this screen size offer far better performance.	30	16:9	1280x768			●					56x91x22	20.5
Sharp LC-15L1E (wireless)	1400	04.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Wireless TV; great idea and impressive to see in action.	15	4:3	640x480			●	●		●	●	35x49x17	6
Sharp LC-20S1E	1050	06.04/ST	★★★★★	Best LCD/plasma TV up to 20in in Awards 2004.	20	4:3	640x480			●			●	●	41x43x16	6

Sharp LC-20S1E

Voted best LCD/plasma TV up to 20in in the Awards 2004. Small but perfectly formed, Sharp's LC-20S1E is a shot in the arm for LCD technology, boasting images with unbeatable realism, superbly balanced colours and great detail at an affordable cost. Not only that, but the sound is coherent, too – a worthy winner.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST LCD/PLASMA TV UP TO 20IN
Sharp LC-20S1E

Sharp LC-32GD1E	3000	11.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Stylish and well-connected, but the picture is plagued by noise.	32	16:9	1366x768			●		●	●		64x80x8	
Sharp LC-37GD1E	4500	10.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Decent, but you're paying a premium for the build and finish.	37	16:9	1366x768	●	●	●		●	●	●	71x92x71	23
Sharp LL-171ME	480	12.04/ST	★★★★☆	Decent level of performance at a wallet-friendly price.	17	16:9	1280x768			●	●		●	●	18x43x37	5.9
Thomson 20LCDM03B	899	06.04/ST	★★★★☆	Clean image with DVD playback, struggles with movement.	20	4:3	1024x768	●	●	●		●			49x51x7	11
Thomson 27LCDB03B	1700	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Useful range of features, shame the picture quality isn't better.	27	16:9	1280x768			●	●	●	●	●	45x83x9	17
Thomson 30LCDB03	2300	11.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Not worth considering unless you are going to watch DVDs only.	30	16:9	1280x768			●			●		53x89x22	19.8
Toshiba 15VL33	500	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Good looks will take it a long way, but there are better around.	15	4:3	853x480			●			●		58x44x20	7.5
Toshiba 17WLT46B	700	12.04/ST	★★★★☆	Good pictures and sound, and a digital tuner included, too.	17	16:9	1280x768			●	●		●	●	37x45x18	5
Toshiba 26WL46B	1299	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Great buy - spectacular performer and very well equipped.	26	16:9	1366x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	58x69x31	23
Toshiba 32WL48	1699	01.05/FT	★★★★★	Undercuts its rivals by miles and has a great picture.	32	16:9	1366x768	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	58x79x10	24

Projectors

Bring the cinema into your front room

BUDGET Up to £9500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Type	Aspect ratio	Max screen (in)	Throw ratio	Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	INPUTS: RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	DVI-D	HDMI	Weight (kg)
BenQ PE8700	3899	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Doesn't quite catch the front runners.	DLP	16:9	300	n/a	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		14.8
Digital Projection iVision HD Dig	6995	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Cracking - small fuss-free and a superb picture.	DLP	16:9	217	1.75-2.25	●	●		●	●	●	●		3
Epson EMP-TW10	999	04.04/FT	★★★★☆	Limited, but cheap enough to be acceptable.	LCD	16:9	300	1.7 - 2.1	●	●		●	●	●			3.6
Epson EMP-TW200	1760	08.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Likeable effort, but outclassed from the off.	DLP	16:9	300	n/a			●	●	●	●			5.3
Epson EMP-TW500	2795	09.04/FT	★★★★☆	Fine in almost every way but doesn't rival DLPs.	LCD	16:9	300	n/a	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	6.2
Hitachi PJ-TX10	900	08.04/GT	★★★★☆	Competitively priced but now not cutting-edge.	LCD	16:9	300	1.0-1.15	●	●		●	●	●			3.5
Hitachi PJ-TX100	1100	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Excellent performance for an LCD design.	LCD	16:9	300	1.75-2.42	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		4.4
JVC DLA-HX1E	6550	02.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Chooses to shun industry-standard technology.	DLP	16:9	275	2-2.6	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		5.9
Marantz VP-10S1	23000	12.04/FT	★★★★★	Amazing reference-quality image from this giant.	DLP	16:9	300	3 lens opt	●	●		●	●	●	●		41
Marantz VP-12S3	8500	08.04/FT	★★★★★	Best projector over £5000 in Awards 2004.	DLP	16:9	250	1.75-2.5	●	●		●	●	●	●		13
Mitsubishi HC3	1200	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Basic performance is no longer competitive.	LCD	16:9	300	1.45-1.75	●	●	●	●	●	●			2.7
NEC HT1100	3750	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Excellent , comes close to the class leaders.	DLP	4:3	300	1.7-2.0	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		3.2
Panasonic PT-AE700	1700	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Very good, very quite and very flexible.	LCD	16:9	200	1.2-7.4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	3.6
Runco Reflection CL-510	5995	04.04/GT	★★★★★	Well worth the money if you can afford it.	DLP	16:9	200	1.75-2.00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		10
Sanyo PLV-Z2	1880	02.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Well equipped but ultimately disappointing.	LCD	16:9	200	1.50-2.00	●	●		●	●	●			4.1
ScreenPlay 4800	800	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Impressive picture and specs for the price.	DLP	4:3	n/a	1.89-2.27	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2.9
ScreenPlay 4805	1300	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Best projector under £1500 in Awards 2004.	DLP	16:9	120	1.77-2.13	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	3.5
ScreenPlay 5700	2200	04.04/GT	★★★★★	Projector Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	DLP	16:9	n/a	1.89-2.63	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	4.2

ScreenPlay 5700

Our projector Product of the Year produces a picture that's comfortable in just about any company, offering top-quality performance at a super-competitive price – indeed, we awarded it five stars when it cost £800 more! Component and DVI-D inputs make the most of the magnificent widescreen pictures.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
PROJECTOR
SCREENPLAY 5700

ScreenPlay 7205	5000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Best projector £3000-£5000 in Awards 2004.	DLP	16:9		1.67-2.08	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	4.3
ScreenPlay 777	20000	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Amazing performer, a real 'statement' product.	DLP	16:9	180	7 lens opt	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	20.2
Sharp XV-Z10	1187	08.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	Picture lags some way behind the competition.	LCD	16:9	n/a	1.38-1.72				●	●	●			2.7
Sharp XV-Z12000	7000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Excellent performance in every regard.	DLP	16:9	300	1.8-2.4	●	●		●	●	●	●		9.4
Sharp XV-Z200	2699	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Easy to use but let down by performance.	DLP		n/a	1.75-2.04	●	●		●	●	●	●		n/a
Sharp XV-Z201	3495	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Convenient as projectors get - slighty high price.	DLP	16:9	n/a	1.17-1.4				●	●	●	●		4.3
Sharp XV-Z91E	1799	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Tempting given the price - worth an audition.	DLP	4:3	200	1.5-1.8	●	●		●	●	●			n/a

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···>

KEF · CHORD · ProAc perfectly natural · Pro-Ject · QUAD · Panasonic · McLaren · NAD

DENON · MISSION

CELESTION · Roksan

B&W Bowers & Wilkins · Pioneer sound.vision.soul

Wilson Benesch · PMC

MUSICAL FIDELITY · BRYSTON

(AE) ACOUSTIC ENERGY · TEAC

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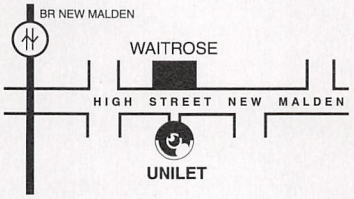

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Unilet Sound and Vision

The Hidden Hi-Fi Store

Projectors continued...

Bring the cinema into your front room

BUDGET Up to £9500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Type	Aspect ratio	Max screen (in)	Throw ratio	INPUTS: Progressive PAL	Progressive NTSC	RGB Scart	Composite in	Component in	S-Video in	DVI-D	HDMI	Weight (kg)
SIM2 Domino 20-H	3500	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Terrific performer but rivals cost less.	DLP	16:9	300	2.2-3.1	●	●		●	●	●		●	5.0
SIM2 Domino 30-H	5000	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Ice-cool looks belie its red-hot performance.	DLP	16:9	300	1.8-2.4	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	5.0
SIM2 HT300 Xtra	8000	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Stunning picture, well-equipped and stylish.	DLP	16:9	300	1.8-2.4	●	●		●	●	●	●		6
SIM2 HT500 LINK	25000	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Every bit as thrilling to watch as it ought to be.	DLP	16:9	300	5 lens opt	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	17
ThemeScene H30	1200	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Performs as well as some that cost much more.	DLP	4:3	256	1.75-2.12			●	●	●	●			2.0
ThemeScene H56	2000	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy, Awards 2003. Has it where it counts.	DLP	16:9	246	2.0-2.4	●	●		●	●	●	●		2.9
ThemeScene H77	4000	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive but the image isn't class leading.	DLP	16:9	283	1.6-2.1	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		7.5
Toshiba ET-1	899	02.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	The picture can't compete with that of rivals.	LCD	16:9	300	1.13-1.42	●	●	●	●	●	●			3.5
Toshiba MT-200	999	02.05/FT	★★★★☆	Impressive, it would be absurd to ignore it.	DLP	16:9	290	1.87-2.25	●	●	●	●	●		●		2.88
Toshiba TDP-MT500	1999	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Expensive compared to other but it's worth it.	DLP	16:9	307	1.64-1.96	●	●		●	●	●			3.2
Vidikron Vision Model 40	6195	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Not what you are entitled to at £6000.	DLP	16:9	200	1.38-1.63	●	●		●	●	●	●		6.7
Yamaha DPX-1100	8000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Superb picture and considerable flexibility.	DLP	16:9	200	1.0-1.6	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13.8
Yamaha LPX-510	3500	Awd.04	★★★★☆	User-friendly and would suit a small room.	LCD	16:9	300	1.35-2.03	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	4.8

Digital TV tuners

Add more channels to any existing television

BUDGET Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Freeview/Sky Recorder	RGB Scart out	RGB Scart in	Component out	Analogue out	Digital out	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
Humax PVR-8000T-80	180	01.05/FT	★★★☆☆	The original 40GB has a much better picture than its 80GB successor.	F		●	●		●	6x37x26	2.7
Humax PVR8000T	150	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Best Freeview PVR in Awards 2004. Freeview receiver and 40GB hard-disk recorder.	F	●	●	●		●	6x37x26	2.7
Netgem i-Player	130	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	Good value, offering Freeview, internet access and an extensive array of outputs.	F		●	●	●	●	5x31x16	0.7
Nokia 221T	130	01.04/GT	★★★★★	The innovative design looks different but the Nokia has competitive performance.	F		●	●	●	●	13x25x28	1.05
Pace Twin Digital	175	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Record one digital channel while watching another. An unqualified success.	F	●	●	●	●	●	7x36x27	3.0
Packard Bell TCX	80	01.04/GT	★★★★★	Offers the features of costlier designs - great value with well-defined pictures..	F		●	●	●		5x30x19	0.78
Pioneer DBR-TF100	100	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Fine performance with a few extra frills for an affordable price.	F		●	●	●	●	5x26x19	1.1
Sagem ITD66	90	12.04/FT	★★★★★	Great little set-top box with a photo card-reader. Ideal if you own a digital camera.	F		●	●	●	●	22x14x3.5	4.0
Samsung SIR-U200i	100	01.04/GT	★★★★★	Samsung's space-age design looks good and produces peerless pictures.	F		●	●			7x26x13	0.8
Sky Sky+	149	10.04/GT	★★★★★	Best subscription TV PVR in Awards 2004. Watch and record satellite television.	S	●	●	●	●		7x38x24	4.5
Sony VTX-D800	100	01.04/GT	★★★★★	Sony's VTX-D800 digital tuner is stylish, well-equipped and performs well.	F		●	●	●	●	22x5x24	1.5
Thomson DHD4000	200	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Affordable route to Freeview and digital recording.	F	●	●		●	●	5x36x23	2.5
Thomson DTI2300	80	12.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Digital tuner with a card slot for Top Up TV - disappointing picture performance.	F		●		●	●	4x25x15	0.7
Thomson DVT 1100	200	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	The Thomson comes with a built-in DVD player, but separates are better value.	F		●	●	●	●	7x36x24	

Video cables

Essential extras to maximise the quality of your DVD player and other sources

BUDGET Up to £210/m

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: S-Video	Scart	Component	DVI-D	HDMI	Length (m)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Directional	Add. cost, £/m
Atlas Element	60	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Elegant cable and the image is rich and detail levels are high.			●			1.0	●					
Audioquest CinemaQ S-1 S-Vid	70	08.00/GT	★★★★☆	A great cable - dynamic images with strong contrasts and good edge definition.	●					1.0	●					
Audioquest DV-1	266	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Extremely solid performer that presents an accurate and detailed image.				●		15	●					14
Audioquest G-Scart	57	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	The picture is fantastic and sound performance is great considering the price.		●				1.0	●				●	16
Chord Company Component	99	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	Image quality is excellent: details are handled well and colours are natural.			●			1.0	●				●	10

"WHAT HI-FI BEST BUYS" from SUPRA

Best Buy - AV3 - Component Video cables (upto £100/m+)
Best Buy - AV6 RGB only Scart cables (£51+)
Best Buy - X-ZAC Fibre optic - Digital cables (£51+)
Best Buy - Rondo 4x2.5 Biwire - Speaker cables (upto £5/m)
NEW for 2004 - HDMI / DVI cables and accessories now available

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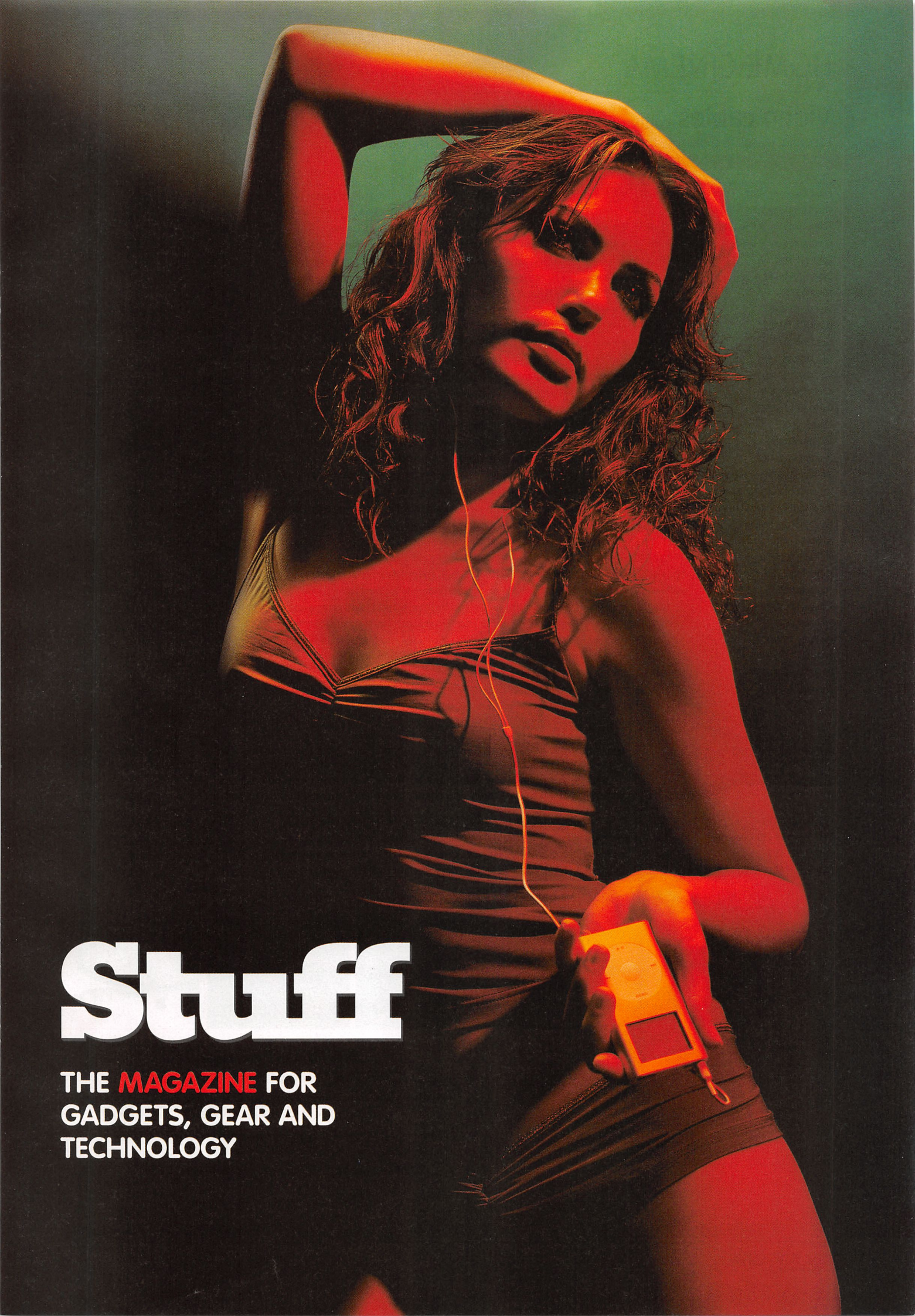
Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···›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GADGETS, GEAR AND
TECHNOLOGY

Video cables continued...

Essential extras to maximise the quality of your DVD player and other sources

BUDGET Up to £210/m

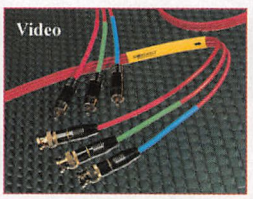
PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: S-Video	TYPE: Scart	TYPE: Component	TYPE: DVI-D	TYPE: HDMI	Length (m)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	CONDUCTOR: Silver	CONDUCTOR: Carbon	CONDUCTOR: Other	Directional	Add. cost, £/m
Chord Company Scart	99	01.02/FT	★★★★★	Superb Scart for composite video and audio - RGB version should be even better.		●				1.0	●					16
Chord Company Scart (RGB)	125	04.02/GT	★★★★★	Pricey and only justifiable in a high-quality system, but worth the money anyway.		●				1.0	●				●	10
Chord Company SI Plus (HDMI)	75	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best digital video cable in Awards 2004. Great value for money.		●			●	1.5	●	●				
Chord Company SI S-Video	60	05.02/FT	★★★★☆	One of the best S-Video cables around, but ensure the rest of your kit is up to it.	●	●				1.0m	●	●			●	8
Ecosse Prisma	40	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Flexible and easy to handle, colours and overall contrast are very good.			●			1.0	●					
Gefen CAB-HDMI	64	07.04/GT	★★★★☆	Fine performer which manages to present a vivid and entertaining picture.					●	3	●					
Hama 43535	7	03.99/GT	★★★★★	Offers better bass presence than freebies and images have extra sharpness.		●				2.0	●					n/a
Ixos XFV05-300	30	07.04/GT	★★★☆☆	A cut above its other budget rivals but this DVI offering is only an average one.				●		3	●					5
Ixos XHT611-075	40	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy Awards 2003. Flat cable and sockets - brilliant picture and sound.		●				0.75	●					
Ixos XHV601	50	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Light years better than freebie Scarts, but it is not a class leader.		●				1.5	●					
Ixos XHV601-150	40	03.04/GT	★★★★★	A superb cable with great images, but we'd go for the Award-winning XHT611.		●				1.5	●					
Ixos XHV704-300	50	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	If you need a three-metre run this well-made cable is an affordable solution.			●			3.0	●					
Kimber Scart RGB	102	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Premium-quality cable at a premium price, but it's a stunning performer.		●				0.75	●				●	92
Lektropacks HCSL14	17.60	03.99/GT	★★★★★	Great value - looks great and sounds excellent with bags of muscularity.		●				1.5	●					
Molex DVI-D	9.50	07.04/GT	★★★★☆	Cheap and cheerful, it offers decent performance. A fair starter buy, but no more.				●		2	●					
Monster DVI400	70	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Produces a terrifyingly good picture, with levels of detail and definition to die for.				●		1.0	●					
Monster HDMI400	130	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Overall performance is storming and it is a useful length.					●	4.0	●					
Monster M1000CV (component)	160	04.02/GT	★★★★☆	Not a component cable for every system but worthwhile in the right context.			●			1.0	●				●	
Nordost Optix Component Video	175	04.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. If you've got the right kit it delivers the goods.			●			1.0	●	●			●	60
Nordost Optix Video Super-S	136	08.00/GT	★★★★☆	Expensive but fabulous with outstanding contrast and superb edge definition.	●					1.0	●	●			●	40
Nordost Silver Screen	220	03.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Absolutely top-class performer - but the heavyweight price tag severely limits it.		●				1	●	●			●	50
Philex 26481H	15	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Cheap, solidly made and the performance is spot on. A great first upgrade.		●				1.5	●				●	
Philex Thor RGB	50	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Picture and build quality that belies its price tag.			●			1.5	●				●	n/a
Philex Thor Scart	30	04.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Build and performance that belies its pricetag.		●				1.5	●					n/a
Profigold PGV 6602 S-Video	15	08.00/GT	★★★★★	Decent colours and good edge definition - at this price it's a real steal.	●					1.0	●					
Profigold PGV332	37	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Cheap, and a step up from a freebie cable, but not as good as some around.			●			1.5	●					
Profigold PGV632	31.50	05.02/GT	★★★★★	Performance at a modest price - lets you adapt your TVs scart sockets to suit.	●	●				1.5	●					
Profigold PGV7000	42.50	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Solidly constructed and capable, if not quite a front-runner in perfomance terms.		●				1.5	●					
Profigold PGV7392	26.50	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	A deft, natural way with colours and good sound from this affordable cable.		●				1.5	●					
Profigold PGV7393	31.50	09.01/FT	★★★☆☆	Uninspiring but a major step up from the freebie Scart slung in with your DVD.		●				1.0	●					
Profigold PGV782	32	04.02/GT	★★★★☆	Sensible upgrade - impressive with fast moving action films and colours shine.		●				1.5	●					
QED P2110	30	05.04/FT	★★★★★	Best Scart cable in Awards 2004. Worth every penny.		●				1.0	●				●	

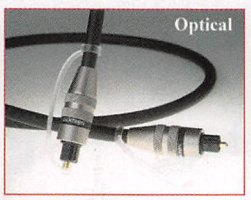
QED P2110

QED has given its Scart range a bit of a rethink – with great success. The new cable is flatter, and has a face-on plug to ease both installation and connection respectively. Not only does it look the business, but it also does the business where it's needed: on-screen. It's cheap, convenient and a stellar performer.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST SCART CABLE
QED P2110

QED Qunex P-CV1	45	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Best component video cable in Awards 2004. Images full of life and detail.			●			1.0m	●					n/a
QED Qunex SR-CV1 Component	110	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	Picture performance is brilliant and it's beautifully built, but it's a little pricey.			●			1.0	●					
QED QUNEX SVS	60	05.02/GT	★★★★☆	Delivers a fine performance, but not as vivid in brightness terms as some rivals.	●					1.0	●	●				
QED Squart 4110 (RGB)	50	09.01/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Video-only, the best picture quality in the test.		●				1.0	●				●	





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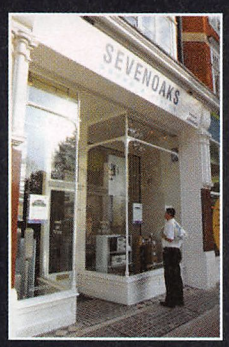
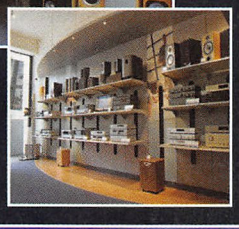


The long-awaited store in Ealing is now open.

Part of a newly developed parade in the heart of town close to Ealing Broadway tube and on the fringe of the Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre, the store offers an unrivalled experience to shoppers searching for the best in audio and video equipment.



24 THE GREEN
EALING
020 8579 8777

SWINDON

We're back.

The Swindon store has reopened after a short break with an improved range of the best in hi-fi and home cinema. The excellent facilities and quality of service remain the same.

The store is located in Commercial Road, close to the town centre with parking nearby.

8-9 COMMERCIAL ROAD
SWINDON
01793 610992

ABERDEEN

We are pleased to announce our new exciting Aberdeen store opened on the 30th October.

Situated on Crown Street, which is only a short walk from Union Street, the store has three fantastic demonstration areas where you can audition the very best in home cinema and hi-fi.

Easy parking available at the rear of the store.

57 CROWN STREET
ABERDEEN
01224 252797

49 STORES NATIONWIDE FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 11

www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

Sevenoaks SOUND & VISION

WINTER SALE

FINISHES 26TH FEBRUARY 2005

"A perfect combination of early Arcam refinement and subtlety, combined with new-found vitality and freshness." DIVA CD192

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Nov 04 ★★★★★

Arcam DiVA CD192 CD Player £849.95
A90 Amplifier £849.95

HI-FI SEPARATES

Pro-ject Debut III Turntable (Black) £ SALE (Colours) £ SALE

"Building on the Award-winning design of its predecessors, the new Pro-ject Debut III delivers a thrillingly good sound for the money... Products like this should really reinvigorate your interest in hi-fi."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST TURNTABLE UNDER £250 Pro-ject Debut III

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST STEREO AMPLIFIER £800-£1400 Cyrus 8vs

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR CD PLAYER CYRUS CD8x

Cyrus 8vs Amplifier £799.95
CD8 X CD Player £999.95

Cyrus has been developing high performance hi-fi systems for over 20 years. Today their upgradeable, modular product range includes multi-room systems, home cinema and some of the world's finest hi-fi systems. The new 'VS' preamp circuitry, incorporated in the 6vs and 8vs amplifiers, has dramatically improved their performance while the CD8 X is a heavily revised version of the CD8.

"Here's a machine that advances the ability of its excellent predecessor by an almost absurd degree. The Cyrus 8vs is an absolute superstar."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Oct 04 ★★★★★

"The added 'x' factor brings a level of CD playback previously unheard at this price." CD8 X

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Nov 04 ★★★★★

Cyrus 6vs Amplifier £599.95

"A significant upgrade to what was already an impressive amp - Cyrus' new entry-level integrated is a peach"

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Oct 04 ★★★★★

Mission m31i Speakers £119.95

"Overall, the little m31i speakers are great, and the team at Mission should consider this upgrade job well done. The 'i' in the model name stands for 'improved' and these speakers fully deserve the suffix."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOVEMBER 2003

REL Quake Subwoofer £349.95 (Brittex Black)

Bass reinforcement for both your hi-fi and home cinema system.

"It's such a capable subwoofer - it handles both music and movies exceptionally well. The Quake delivers bass with both power and finesse."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ DECEMBER 2002

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ DECEMBER 2003

Roksan Kandy CD Player £649.95
Amplifier £649.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST STEREO AMPLIFIER £500-£800 Roksan Kandy MkIII

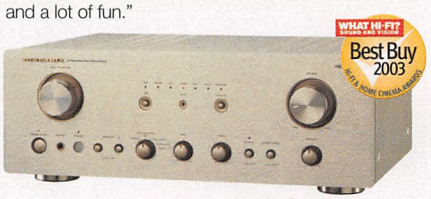
"The Kandy CD player offers a great array of talents - team it with its amp stablemate and you have something close to the ideal visual and sonic combination."

"The result is a breathtaking Best Buy amplifier that betters its competition with ease." KANDY AMPLIFIER - AWARDS 2003

Marantz CD5400 CD Player £119.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEBRUARY 2004

"This is a remarkable player for the money, with superb sound, looks and feel, which give you no clue as to the budget price... A very solid buy - and a lot of fun."



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Best Buy 2003

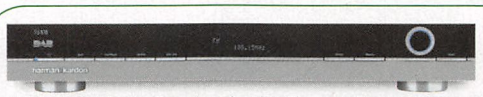
PM7200 Amplifier £239.95

"This is one of the most powerful amps in its class, at 95w per channel, and it sounds it with anything from dance to a big orchestral work, offering a delicious combination of poise and impact. Stick with fast, dynamic speakers such as B&W DM601 S3s or KEF's equally capable Q1s and the results will amaze."

Pure Digital DRX702ES Digital/Analogue Tuner £269.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year 2003

"This tuner sounds superb... The overall balance is powerful, clean and crisp, making this a fine tuner by any standards, and a superb buy given its excellent flexibility."



Harman Kardon TU970 Digital/Analogue Tuner £249.95

With Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) capability, this high-quality tuner delivers more stations and offers pure, distortion-free, CD-like sound, while providing useful radio and data services. Combining ease of use with interference-free reception, Harman Kardon's TU970 features the newest digital technologies from one of the oldest hi-fi names.

CLAIM UP TO 25% ACCESSORIES FREE

When you purchase any product from the following brands:-

ARCAM • B&W • CYRUS • ROKSAN • REL • ROTEL

Choose Accessories From **QED • GRADO • SOUNDSTYLE** etc

CLAIM 10%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£250**
CLAIM 15%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£500**
CLAIM 20%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£1000**
CLAIM 25%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£2000**

SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

*PERCENTAGE APPLIES TO ACTUAL SPEND ON BRANDS SHOWN ABOVE. NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION.
PLEASE NOTE - SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES. PLEASE CALL TO CHECK AVAILABILITY BEFORE TRAVELLING.

KEF
Q4 Speakers £ SALE
Q Compact Speakers £ SALE

The Q4 floorstander, is one of the latest additions to KEF's acclaimed Q Series.

Featuring KEF's Uni-Q driver array - an arrangement that makes the speaker much easier to place in the room. This has been combined with a dedicated 130mm LF unit for extended bass output which belies the size of its diminutive cabinet.

Roksan Caspian M Series
CD Player £1099.95 Amplifier £999.95

"A real class-contender, the new M Series-1 is a canny piece of kit and well worth the money." **M SERIES-1 CD PLAYER**

"A fine piece of equipment." **M SERIES-1 AMPLIFIER**

Preamplifer/2 x Monoblocs £3449.95

"This Roksan is an excellent buy that puts most of the opposition to shame when it comes to sonic ability... If you want the most honest-sounding amp you can get for your money, this combo can't be ignored."

Wharfedale Diamond 9.1 Speakers £ SALE

"The overall balance of the speakers is their finest characteristic. Thanks to near-perfect driver integration, music sounds wonderfully natural and transparent... This is a bar-raising effort from Wharfedale: these are ridiculously good speakers at the budget price level."

Musical Fidelity A5 SERIES
A5 Amplifier . . . . . £ SALE
A5 CD Player . . . . . £ SALE

Musical Fidelity has introduced the new A5 series CD player and integrated amplifier. The amplifier delivers 250 wpc and is capable of reproducing proper dynamic range into all but the most inefficient loudspeakers. The CD player is, according to Musical Fidelity, "the best player ever made." Visit your nearest store for more more information and a demonstration.

X-SERIES
X-80 Amplifier . . . . £ SALE
X-150 Amplifier . . . £ SALE
X-Ray^{V3} CD Player . . £ SALE

The 40 wpc, **X-80** and the 80wpc **X-150** amplifiers are part of Musical Fidelity's revamped X-Series. Both models feature a dual-gang analogue volume control and high-output transistors for each channel. The X-150 also includes a high quality phono stage.

The **X-Ray^{V3}** CD player, replacement for the legendary X-Ray, uses the same DAC and upsampling principles as the acclaimed Tri-Vista SACD player.

Quad
99 CD-P CD Pre Amp £ SALE
99 Power Amp £ SALE
11L Speakers £ SALE

This system package includes the multi Award-winning 11L speakers combined with the exceptional 99 CD-P CD player and 99 power amplifier.

"So, we have three talented pieces of kit and the result is...excellent."

PRICING POLICY

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive.
In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

0% FINANCE OPTION*

Spread the cost of buying.
0% finance option is available on the majority of products we stock.
*Written details on request. Licensed credit brokers. Minimum balance £400. Subject to status.

PLEASE NOTE: SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES. PLEASE CALL BEFORE TRAVELLING.
***ADDED VALUE OFFERS - FROM RANGE AVAILABLE IN-STORE. NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.** ADVERTISEMENT VALID UNTIL AT LEAST 26/02/05, E&OE.

Sevenoaks SOUND & VISION

WINTER SALE

FINISHES 26TH FEBRUARY 2005

Rotel 10 Series
RA-1062 Amplifier £594.95
RCD-1072 CD Player £594.95

"At the heart of the 60-watt **RA-1062** is a toroidal transformer and a power supply, which Rotel claims, helps the amp maintain performance even at high volumes... Crank up the volume and, as promised, the Rotel keeps its composure and balance... If you want a £600 integrated, be sure to audition the RA-1062.

First impressions of the **RCD-1072** are excellent. This is the slickest machine in this group: the casework feels solid and the finish exceptional at the price... On its own terms it remains an enjoyable and informative CD player."

WHAT HI★FI? SOUND AND VISION • SEPTEMBER 2003

Monitor Audio

SILVER S6 Speakers £499.95

"These are rather magical speakers, with a poise and grace that belies their ability to turn on the power when required. Pair them with a good CD player and suitably accomplished amp, and you won't go far wrong."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ OCTOBER 2003

GOLD Reference 20 Speakers £ SALE

"Monitor Audio has made an immensely accomplished pair of speakers in the GR 20s. In sonic and physical terms there is little to criticise; even the price is highly competitive. We have no choice but to recommend them highly."

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ MARCH 2001

BRONZE B2 Speakers £179.95

"Monitor Audio's Bronze B2s sound much more expensive than their £200 price tag would suggest. In fact, they sound superb... In the competitive world of budget hi-fi, speakers don't get much better than the B2s."

Acoustic Energy Aelite Three Speakers £ SALE

"Acoustic Energy's new Aelite Threes weigh in at a hefty 18kg a piece, and their curved, real wood finished cabents both look handsome and make good acoustic sense... So how do they perform... Give them a big room and position them in free space and they'll deliver great things... If you want a big sound for sensible money, don't hesitate to audition the Aelite Threes."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Sept 04 ★★★★★

CD RECORDERS

Yamaha CDR-HD1300/II £479.95

New replacement for the Award-winning CDR-HD1300. Now includes a larger hard-disk for extra storage.

Pioneer PDR-609 £199.95 LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE

"Features include 24-bit/96kHz digital-analogue-conversion plus manual recording level controls, ideal when making compilations to standardise levels. All this means you get great copies from the Pioneer... and remarkable value."

Acoustic Energy AE1 MKIII Speakers £ SALE

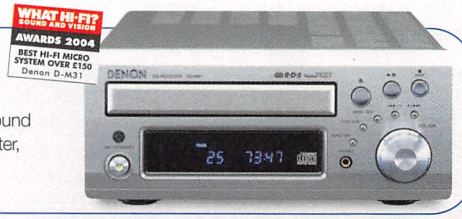
"The legendary AE1 lives on in this groundbreaking third version... The Mk IIIs are worthy of the AE1 name, taking small-speaker performance to another level.."

B&W 704 Speakers £1399.95

The 704 speakers are part of B&W's new 700 series. These floorstanding, two-and-a-half-way, vented box speakers are available in a variety of attractive finishes. In a recent What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision group test the 704 offered "Remarkable openness and clarity that is unrivalled at this price."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Mar 04 ★★★★★

Denon DM31 UD-M31 CD Receiver £189.95



"The D-M30 was exemplary, as its three What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision Awards clearly show. The D-M31 is even better, making it phenomenal value for money."

NB - DENON DM31 PRICE EXCLUDES SPEAKERS

PLEASE NOTE: SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES. PLEASE CALL BEFORE TRAVELLING.

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CLAIM UP TO **25%** ACCESSORIES **FREE**

When you purchase any product from the following brands:-
ARCAM • B&W • CYRUS • ROKSAN • REL • ROTEL
Choose Accessories From **QED • GRADO • SOUNDSTYLE** etc

CLAIM 10%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£250**
CLAIM 15%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£500**
CLAIM 20%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£1000**
CLAIM 25%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£2000**

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SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

SUGGESTED **HI-FI SEPARATE** SYSTEMS

Sevenoaks has carefully chosen four hi-fi separate systems. Selected for their performance, reliability and compatibility, these systems offer superb value for money with massive savings on the individual component prices. Simply add speaker and interconnect cables and other accessories from our extensive range available in-store.

Rotel
RCD-02 CD Player
RA-01 Amplifier

Monitor Audio
Bronze B2 Speakers

Hi-iFi SYSTEM 1

£649.95 SAVE £££s
PRICE EXCLUDES CABLES & STANDS

HI-FI SYSTEM 1 - NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION

Arcam
CD73T CD Player
A80 Amplifier

KEF
Q4 Speakers

Hi-iFi SYSTEM 2

£1149.95 SAVE £££s
PRICE EXCLUDES CABLES

HI-FI SYSTEM 2 - NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION

Roksan
Kandy KD1 MKIII CD Player
Kandy KA1 MKIII Amplifier

Monitor Audio
Silver S6 Speakers

Hi-iFi SYSTEM 3

£1499.95 SAVE £££s
PRICE EXCLUDES CABLES

HI-FI SYSTEM 3 - NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION

Musical Fidelity
X-Ray^{V3} CD Player
X-150 Amplifier

Monitor Audio
Gold Reference 10 Speakers

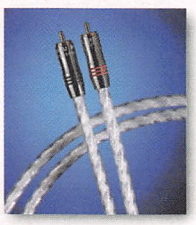
Hi-iFi SYSTEM 4

£1999.95 SAVE £££s
PRICE EXCLUDES CABLES & STANDS

HI-FI SYSTEM 4 - NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION

ESSENTIAL **ACCESSORIES**

The right accessories can make or break your hi-fi or home cinema system. Our carefully selected range will ensure you get the very best performance from your system.



QED CABLES

Audio & Video Interconnects • Speaker Cables • HDMI Cables • Component Video Interconnects • Comprehensive Custom Cable Service

GRADO HEADPHONES

Range includes the Award-winning SR60 and highly-acclaimed RS1 plus the world-famous Grado Cartridges

SOUNDSTYLE RACKS & STANDS

The all-new Soundstyle range of Equipment Supports and Speaker Stands offer the discerning enthusiast an unsurpassed combination of leading-edge styling, outstanding finishes, modular flexibility and class-leading sonic performance

£ PRICING POLICY

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

Sevenoaks SOUND & VISION

WINTER SALE

FINISHES 26TH FEBRUARY 2005

Harman/Kardon

- DVD31 DVD Audio/Video Player
- AVR330 A/V Receiver
- HKTS11 5.1 Speaker Package

This superb Harman/Kardon Home Cinema System offers DVD Audio compatibility, 55 wpc and 5.1 surround sound - at a very special price. Simply add the cables and accessories of your choice from our extensive range available in-store.

PACKAGE PRICE
£1199.95

IF PURCHASED INDIVIDUALLY **£1599**

DENON A/V RECEIVERS

Denon AVR-2805 **£ SALE**

"Last year's Award-winning AVR-2803 finally meets its match in the shape of this storming successor from Denon."

Denon AVR-3805 **£799.95**

"Very impressive, great with the DVD-3910."

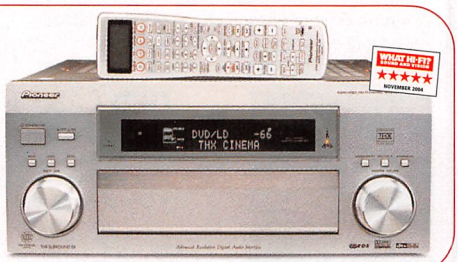
PIONEER HOME CINEMA

Pioneer VSA-AX10Ai A/V Amplifier £ SALE

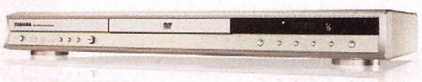
"It's no exaggeration to say that the VSA-AX10Ai is the most advanced integrated home cinema amplifier in the world."

Pioneer VSX-AX5Ai A/V Receiver £999.95

"Pioneer has tweaked its 2003 Award-winning VSX-AX5i, adding additional sound-processing modes, such as Dolby Pro-Logic IIx, and improving the automatic calibration system. Minor additions they may be, but there was little wrong with the original."



DVD PLAYERS



Toshiba SD340E Region 2 **£69.95**
DVD Player M/Region **£79.95**

"The SD-340E works even better than the '240, fully justifying the extra cost."

Pioneer DV575A Region 2 **£119.95**
Universal DVD Player M/Region **£129.95**

"For outstanding all-round ability there are few players that can match Pioneer's DV-575A."

Denon DVD-2910 Region 2 **£ SALE**
Universal DVD Player M/Region **£ SALE**

"The Denon's picture quality is just sensational... Even the CD performance is up to scratch."

Yamaha
DVD-S550 DVD Player £119.95
RX-V1500 A/V Receiver £ SALE

"It's strange, then, that the least expensive DVD player, Yamaha's DVD-S550, should impress us the most. Despite being less than half the price of its rivals, its performance is on par with its costly counterparts. And, for all-round ability, Yamaha's RX-V1500 is the outstanding receiver in the category.

Consequently, the Yamaha system wins this category for performance as well as value."

Arcam DiVA
DV79 DVD Player £999.95
AVR300 A/V Receiver £1299.95

"We have reviewed the DV79 DVD player and the AVR300 receiver in their own right and with both receiving a full five-star rating, there's no surprise that putting the two together produces a peach of a pairing.

The sonic experience is excellent. Whatever type of film you feed the AVR300, the sound has detail, depth and energy and in two channel mode the Arcam is the most musically adept A/V receiver we've heard... Overall, this is a stunning Arcam combination, characterised by pristine pictures and a precise sound in surround and stereo."

CLAIM UP TO 25% ACCESSORIES FREE

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SOUND VISION SEVENOAKS

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DVD RECORDERS

Panasonic DMR-E55
DVD-RAM/DVD-R Region 2 **£199.95**
"Performance at a price unthinkable a year ago."

Panasonic DMR-E85
DVD-RAM/DVD-R Region 2 **£ SALE**
"Playback, recording, connectivity and usability are all top-rank, making this the recorder to beat in 2004."

Pioneer DVR520H
HDD/DVD-RW Region 2 **£ CALL**
"The Pioneer DVR-520H makes superb recordings and its editing and copying features make this an adaptable but simple-to-use digital recorder."

Pioneer DVR720H
HDD/DVD-RW Region 2 **£ SALE**
"In all, the DVR720H is a fine machine with some nifty features and superb performance potential. The 160 GB hard-disk capacity will be a hugely tempting proposition for those who make regular recordings. Superb!"

Mordaunt-Short Genie
5.1 Speaker Package £ SALE
"Distinctive looks, practical to use, first-class sonics from the sats and the sub - it adds up to a winning cinema set-up... Mordaunt-Short's little Genies become the ones to beat."

KEF KHT2005.2
5.1 Speaker Package
£ SALE
"KEF has done it. This is the new best system in its class... The KHT2005.2 is the new top surround dog. KEF should be very proud."

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evolution 3B
5.1 Speaker Package
£679.95
"This is a great solution for those of you who take your hi-fi and home cinema seriously, and want a speaker package that handles both jobs well."

Mission Elegante e82
7.1 Speaker Package
£ SALE
"Mission's aim for its Elegante is to offer all-round movie and music performance with style: that'll be mission accomplished then... The Elegante package is particularly well integrated, with up to seven speakers providing a seamless surround sound experience."

KEF KIT100 Home Cinema System £ SALE
"The KEF Instant Theatre system ranks as one of the most effective 'pseudo' surround sound systems we have heard. It delivers a strong performance with DVD images, and its showing with 5.1 soundtracks is almost as good as the real thing." **WHAT HOME CINEMA • JUNE 2004**

SUBWOOFERS

REL Stampede
£549.95 (Brittex Black)
"A flawless performance from the REL Stampede leaves little room for criticism."

REL Strata 5
£699.95 (Brittex Black)
"Combines user-friendly appeal with excellent sonic ability."

REL Q150E MKII
£499.95 (Brittex Black)
"What Hi-Fi? Product of the Year 2003. An effective revamp."

Denon DHT-500SD
5.1 Home Cinema System
£429.95
"The Denon DHT-500 SD is the best home cinema system you can find in one box. If you're not confident that separates are the answer for you - too complex or too expensive - then the Denon provides the ideal solution."

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Sevenoaks SOUND & VISION

WINTER SALE

FINISHES 26TH FEBRUARY 2005

Pioneer PDP-435XDE 43" Plasma Television

£ SALE (Includes Integrated Digital Tuner)

Pioneer launches its fifth-generation, high-definition plasma televisions. Featuring up to seven billion colours, this extended line-up of products are equipped with new proprietary technologies, have unprecedented advancements in picture and sound quality and are noticeably thinner and lighter than Pioneer's previous models.

For more information and a demonstration, contact your local Sevenoaks store.

Sharp Aquos LC-37GD1E 37" LCD IDTV Television

£ SALE (Includes Integrated FREEVIEW)

"The LC-37GD1E is a significant LCD leap forward from Sharp, which combines a splendid picture with brilliant design and great audio. If you thought the battle between plasma and LCD screens had already been won (in the former's favour), then it's time to think again. This next-generation screen is good enough to rock plasma to its flatpanel socks."

HOME CINEMA CHOICE • NOVEMBER 2004

+FREEVIEW channel and service subject to coverage. Aerial upgrade may be required.

Sharp Aquos LC-32GA4E 32" LCD Television

£ SALE

Sharp has invested over thirty years of dedicated research and development to perfect liquid crystal (LCD) television technology. This obsession with perfection has delivered excellence in picture quality, performance and design, with the widest choice of Aquos LCD TVs available today. Aquos is the brand synonymous with the best in flat panel LCD TV.

Sharp Aquos LC-26GA3E 26" LCD Television

£ SALE

Panasonic Viera TH42PE30B 42" Plasma IDTV

£ SALE (Includes Integrated FREEVIEW)

"The 42PE30B's combination of spectacular design, handy connectivity, and superlative pictures make it easily worth considering against Pioneer's previously peerless PDP434. It has taken Panasonic a long time to really bring plasma home, but on the evidence of the 42PE30B, the wait's been worth it." HOME CINEMA CHOICE • AUGUST 2004

FREEVIEW channel and service subject to coverage. Aerial upgrade may be required. NB - Cabinet Stand/Pedestal Stand are available at additional cost.

Panasonic Viera TX26LXD1 26" LCD IDTV

£ SALE (Includes Integrated FREEVIEW)

"So the TX-26LXD1 scores a full complement of five stars. It's the most expensive device in our test, but quality seldom comes cheaply, and this set has quality in abundance."

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Sept 04 ★★★★★

FREEVIEW channel and service subject to coverage. Aerial upgrade may be required. NB - Cabinet Stand/Pedestal Stand are available at additional cost.

Hitachi Platara 32PD5200 32" Plasma Television

£ SALE

"If a 32inch screen is your dream, the 32PD5200 has more than enough going for it to be shortlisted. My bet is you'll not find anything to match its performance for the budget price it sells for."

HOME CINEMA CHOICE • SEPTEMBER 2004

PLEASE NOTE: SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES. PLEASE CALL BEFORE TRAVELLING.

***ADDED VALUE OFFERS - FROM RANGE AVAILABLE IN-STORE. NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.**

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CLAIM UP TO 25% ACCESSORIES FREE

When you purchase any product from the following brands:-
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CLAIM 10%*	WHEN YOU SPEND OVER	£250
CLAIM 15%*	WHEN YOU SPEND OVER	£500
CLAIM 20%*	WHEN YOU SPEND OVER	£1000
CLAIM 25%*	WHEN YOU SPEND OVER	£2000

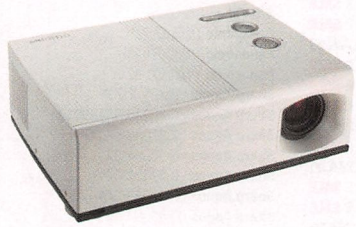
*PERCENTAGE APPLIES TO ACTUAL SPEND ON BRANDS SHOWN ABOVE. NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION.
PLEASE NOTE - SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES. PLEASE CALL TO CHECK AVAILABILITY BEFORE TRAVELLING.

SOUND SEVENOAKS VISION

DLP PROJECTORS

ScreenPlay 4805 £ SALE

Aimed at the dedicated movie projection market, Infocus has introduced the 4805. Replacing the Award-winning 4800, this updated model boasts 750 ANSI Lumens brightness, a contrast ratio of 2,200:1 and features a smart menu to maximise user-friendliness.

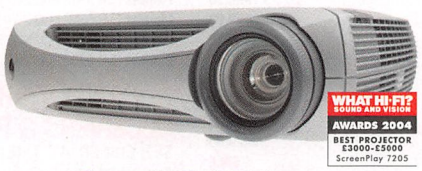


ThemeScene H77 £ SALE

ThemeScene's H77 projector boasts an awesome-sounding contrast ratio of 3500:1 and features Texas Instruments' very latest HD2+ DLP chipset that gives greater brightness and deeper black levels.

Sim 2 Domino 18 £ SALE

The Domino 18 is the latest single chip DLP™ technology based front projector to be added to the highly acclaimed Domino by SIM2 range and features 16:9 ED2 chip from Texas Instruments.



ScreenPlay 7205 £ SALE

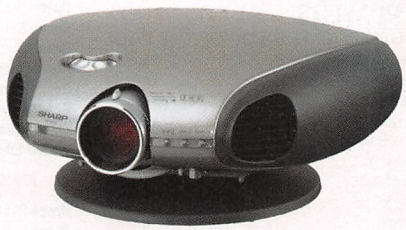
"Right now, ScreenPlay is making projectors that outperform rivals costing significantly more, and the 7205 is yet another stunning example of a great Award-winner."

Sim 2 Domino 30-H £ SALE

"Sim2's Domino 20 is one of our favourite projectors, and we've finally got our mitts on the latest-spec big-brother to it, the Domino 30-H. It was worth the wait... It's a fine projector in every way. You need to see it."

ScreenPlay 5700 £ SALE

"Its rivals do get close to the ScreenPlay 5700's outstanding ability but none comes with such an affordable price tag attached... This is one of the finest projectors on the market for both value and performance."



Sharp XV-Z200 £ SALE

Packed with features, Sharp's XV-200 includes the 'Matterhorn' DLP chip that can display images at a resolution of 1024 x 576 pixels plus whisper quiet (30db) operation.

Sharp XV-Z91E £ SALE

"This simple, light weight model is a well equipped DLP design and is a very tempting projector given the price. If you want a simple-to-use projector, it's well worth auditioning."

£ PRICING POLICY

We always try to ensure our prices are highly competitive.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention.

SYSTEM OPTION

Upgrade system with a ScreenPlay 4805 Projector plus 6' Screen

£2499.95

NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION

HOME CINEMA SYSTEMS

Harman/Kardon

- DVD31 DVD Audio/Video Player
- AVR330 A/V Receiver
- HKTS11 5.1 Speaker Package

ThemeScene

- H30 DLP Projector • 5' Screen

£1999.95

NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION

Sevenoaks SOUND & VISION

WINTER SALE

FINISHES 26TH FEBRUARY 2005

TURNTABLES

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Goldring GR1 ..... £129.95
Michell Gyro SE/RB300 ..... £ SALE
Michell TecnoDec (Ex Arm) ..... £ SALE
Project Debut Phono SB ..... £ SALE
Project Debut III (Black) ..... £ SALE
Project Debut III (Colours) ..... £ SALE
Project 1 Xpression £189.95
Roksan Radius 5 (Wood) £749.95

TUNERS

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Arcam DiVA T61 ..... £229.95
Cyrus FM X £499.95
Denon TU260L MKII £99.95
Harman Kardon TU970 DAB/AM/FM £249.95
Marantz ST4000 ..... £99.95
Pure DRX-701ES DAB £189.95
Pure DRX-702ES Analogue/DAB £269.95
Roksan Kandy KT1 MKIII £549.95

CD PLAYERS

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Arcam DiVA CD73T £399.95
Arcam DiVA CD192 ..... £849.95
Arcam FMJ CD33T £1349.95
Cyrus CD6 ..... £599.95
Cyrus CD8 X £999.95
Cyrus DAC X £1099.95
Denon DCD485 ..... £119.95
Linn Genki ..... £ SALE
Linn Ikemi ..... £ SALE
Marantz CD5400 ..... £119.95
Marantz SA11 S1 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity X-Ray V3 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity A3.2 ..... £699.95
Musical Fidelity A5 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity A308CR £1399.95
Quad 99 CD-P ..... £ SALE
Roksan Kandy KD1 MKIII £649.95
Roksan Caspian M £1099.95
Rotel RCD02 ..... £379.95
Rotel RCD1072 ..... £594.95

CD RECORDERS

Pioneer PDR609 CD-RW £199.95
Yamaha CDR-HD1300/II £479.95

AMPLIFIERS

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Arcam DiVA A65 Plus £389.95
Arcam DiVA A80 ..... £599.95
Arcam DiVA A90 ..... £849.95
Arcam FMJ A32 ..... £1199.95
Cyrus 6vs £599.95
Cyrus 8vs £799.95
Cyrus Pre X vs Pre £1099.95
Cyrus Mono X Power ..... (Each) £1199.95
Denon PMA355 ..... £169.95
Linn Kolector Pre ..... £ SALE
Linn LK85 Power ..... £ SALE
Marantz PM4400 ..... £139.95
Marantz PM7200 ..... £239.95
Marantz PM11 S1 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity X-80 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity X-150 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity A3.2 Pre £699.95
Musical Fidelity A3.2 Power £699.95
Musical Fidelity A5 ..... £ SALE
Musical Fidelity A308 ..... £1399.95
Quad 99 Power ..... £ SALE
Quad 909 Power ..... £ SALE
Roksan Kandy KA1 MKIII £649.95
Roksan Caspian M £999.95
Roksan Caspian M Pre £1249.95
Roksan Caspian M Stereo Power £749.95
Roksan Caspian M Monobloc Power ..... (Each) £1099.95
Rotel RA-01 ..... £249.95
Rotel RA-02 ..... £349.95
Rotel RA-1062 ..... £594.95

SPEAKERS

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One £129.95
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo Three £249.95
Acoustic Energy Aelite Two ..... £ SALE
Acoustic Energy Aelite Three ..... £ SALE
Acoustic Energy AE1 MKIII ..... £ SALE
AVI Neutron IV ..... £ SALE
B&W DM601 S3 ..... £249.95
B&W DM602 S3 ..... £299.95
B&W 704 ..... £1399.95
B&W 705 ..... £899.95
KEF Q Compact ..... £ SALE
KEF Q4 ..... £ SALE
KEF XQ1 ..... £ SALE
Linn Katan ..... £ SALE
Mission m31i £119.95
Mission m34i £279.95
Mission 780SE ..... £ SALE
Mission 782SE ..... £ SALE
Monitor Audio Bronze B2 ..... £179.95
Monitor Audio Silver S1 ..... £299.95
Monitor Audio Silver S6 ..... £499.95
Monitor Audio Silver S8 ..... £799.95
Monitor Audio Gold Reference 10 ..... £699.95
Monitor Audio Gold Reference 60 ..... £1999.95
Quad 11L ..... £ SALE
Quad 12L ..... £ SALE
Quad 22L ..... £ SALE
Ruark Epilogue II ..... £ SALE
Ruark Talisman III ..... £ SALE
Ruark Sabre III ..... £ SALE
Wharfedale Diamond 9.1 ..... £ SALE
Wharfedale Pacific Evolution 30 ..... £ SALE

HI-FI SYSTEMS

Denon 201 Ex Speakers £479.95
Denon DF101 Ex Speakers £299.95
Denon DM31 Ex Speakers £189.95
Linn Classik Music Ex Speakers ..... £ SALE
Teac Legacy 600 Ex Speakers £199.95

DVD SYSTEMS

Denon ADV-M71 Inc SC-M51 Speakers £449.95
Denon DHT-500SD Inc 5.1 Speaker Package £429.95
Denon DHT-550SD Inc 5.1 Speaker Package ..... £ SALE
Jamo DVR50/A305PDD Inc Speakers ..... £ SALE
Jamo DVR50/A355PDD Inc Speakers ..... £ SALE
KEF KIT100 Inc Speakers ..... £ SALE
Teac Legacy 700/LS-L800 Inc Speakers £799.95

MULTI-ROOM AUDIO

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Cyrus Linkserver 160 ..... £2999.95
Cyrus Linkserver 250 ..... £3499.95
Cyrus Linkport £649.95
Cyrus Linkwand £199.95
Yamaha MusicCast MCX A10 ..... £599.95
Yamaha MusicCast MCX 1000 ..... £1799.95

DVD PLAYERS

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MAKE & MODEL	REGION 2	MULTI REGION
Arcam DiVA DV78	£699.95	£699.95
Arcam DiVA DV79	£999.95	£999.95
Arcam FMJ DV29	£1599.95	£1599.95
Cyrus DVD8	£1199.95	£1199.95
Denon DVD-1710	£ SALE	£ SALE
Denon DVD-1910	£ SALE	£ SALE
Denon DVD-2200 Universal	£339.95	£349.95
Denon DVD-2900 Universal	£489.95	£499.95
Denon DVD-2910 Universal	£ SALE	£ SALE
Denon DVD-3910 Universal	£ SALE	£ SALE
Denon DVD-A11	£ SALE	£ SALE
Harman Kardon DVD22	£199.95	£199.95
Harman Kardon DVD31	£ SALE	£ SALE
Marantz DV4500	£ SALE	£ SALE
Meridian G98	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DV370	£69.95	£79.95
Pioneer DV575A Universal	£119.95	£129.95
Pioneer DV668Av Universal	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DV868Avi Universal	£ SALE	£ SALE
Toshiba SD240E	£59.95	£69.95
Toshiba SD340E	£69.95	£79.95
Yamaha DVD-S550	£119.95	£119.95
Yamaha DVD-S1500	£ SALE	£ SALE

DVD RECORDERS

MAKE & MODEL	REGION 2	MULTI REGION
Panasonic DMR-E55 DVD-RAM	£199.95	£219.95
Panasonic DMR-E65 DVD-RAM	£ SALE	£ SALE
Panasonic DMR-E75 DVD-RAM	£ SALE	£ SALE
Panasonic DMR-E85 DVD-RAM	£ SALE	£ SALE
Panasonic DMR-E95 DVD-RAM	£ SALE	£ SALE
Panasonic DMR-E500 DVD-RAM	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DVR-220 DVD-RW	£199.95	£219.95
Pioneer DVR-320 DVD-RW	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DVR-420H HDD/DVD-RW	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DVR-520H HDD/DVD-RW	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DVR-720H HDD/DVD-RW	£ SALE	£ SALE
Pioneer DVR-920H HDD/DVD-RW	£ SALE	£ SALE

A/V AMPLIFIERS RECEIVERS & PROCESSORS

SEE OFFER AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE

Arcam AVR250 A/V Receiver £999.95
Arcam AVR300 A/V Receiver £1299.95
Arcam AV8/P7 A/V Pre/Processor/Power £5749.95
Cyrus AV8 A/V Processor £1099.95
Denon AVC-A1SRA A/V Amplifier ..... £ SALE
Denon AVC-A1XV A/V Amplifier ..... £ SALE
Denon AVR1705 A/V Receiver £199.95
Denon AVR1905 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Denon AVR2105 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Denon AVR2805 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Denon AVR3805 A/V Receiver £799.95
Harman Kardon AVR330 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Harman Kardon AVR630 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Harman Kardon DPR2005 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Marantz SR4500 A/V Receiver £299.95
Marantz SR5500 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Pioneer VSX-D814 A/V Receiver £249.95
Pioneer VSX-AX3 A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Pioneer VSX-2014i A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Pioneer VSX-AX5i A/V Receiver £799.95
Pioneer VSX-AX5Ai A/V Receiver £999.95
Pioneer VSA-AX10Ai A/V Amplifier ..... £ SALE
Rotel RSX1056 A/V Reciever £1199.95
Rotel RSX1067 A/V Receiver £1799.95
Rotel RSP1066/RMB1075 A/V Pre/Power £1799.95
Rotel RSP1098 A/V Processor £2294.95
Yamaha DSP-AX750SE A/V Amplifier ..... £ SALE
Yamaha DSP-Z9 A/V Amplifier ..... £ SALE
Yamaha RX-V550 A/V Receiver £299.95
Yamaha RX-V650 A/V Receiver £369.95
Yamaha RX-V1400RDS A/V Receiver £629.95
Yamaha RX-V1500RDS A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE
Yamaha RX-V2400RDS A/V Receiver £679.95
Yamaha RX-V2500RDS A/V Receiver ..... £ SALE

A/V SPEAKERS & PACKAGES

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Acoustic Energy Evo 3B £679.95
Acoustic Energy Aego P5/II £429.95
Acoustic Energy Aelite 5.1 ..... £ SALE
Artcoustic Diablo ..... £ SALE
B&W VM1/AS1 ..... £849.95
B&W DM300 AV £899.95
KEF KHT1005 ..... £299.95
KEF KHT2005.2 ..... £ SALE
KEF KHT5005 ..... £ SALE
KEF Q7 AV ..... £ SALE
M&K K5 ..... £ SALE
M&K K3 ..... £ SALE
M&K Xenon 25 ..... £ SALE
M&K 850/CS35/V850 ..... £ SALE
Mission M30 AV Pack £399.95
Mission Elegante e82 7.1 Package ..... £ SALE
Monitor Audio Bronze B2 AV £799.95
Monitor Audio Bronze B4 AV £949.95
Monitor Audio Radius 270 ..... £499.95
Monitor Audio Radius 5.1 ..... £999.95
Mordaunt Short Genie ..... £ SALE
Quad L-Series ..... £ SALE
Wharfedale Diamond 9 HCP ..... £ SALE

SUBWOOFERS

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B&W PV1 ..... £949.95
MJ Acoustics Pro 50 (Black) ..... £ SALE
MJ Acoustics Pro 100 (Black) ..... £ SALE
MJ Acoustics Ref 100 (Black) ..... £ SALE
MJ Acoustics Ref 200 (Black) ..... £ SALE
MJ Acoustics Ref 1 MkII (Black) ..... £ SALE
Quad L Series ..... £ SALE
REL Q150E MKII (Brittex Black) £499.95
REL Q201E (Brittex Black) £724.95
REL Q400E (Brittex Black) £999.95
REL Quake (Brittex Black) £349.95
REL Stampede (Black) £549.95
REL Strata 5 (Brittex Black) £699.95
Wharfedale Diamond SW150 ..... £ SALE

PLASMA

Fujitsu P42HHA30 42" ..... £ SALE
Fujitsu P50XHA30 50" ..... £ SALE
Hitachi 32PD5200 32" ..... £ SALE
Hitachi 42PD5200 42" ..... £ SALE
Hitachi 55PMA550TE 55" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TH37PW7B 37" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TH42PW7B 42" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TH37PE30B 37" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TH42PE30B 42" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TH50PV30B 50" ..... £ SALE
Pioneer PDP435XDE 43" ..... £ SALE
Pioneer PDP435FDE 43" ..... £ SALE
Pioneer PDP505XDE 50" ..... £ SALE
Yamaha PDM4210 42" ..... £ SALE

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Hitachi 28LD5200 28" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TX22LX2 22" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TX26LXD1 26" ..... £ SALE
Panasonic TX32LXD1 32" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-20S1E 20" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-26GA3/GA4/GA5 26" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-32GA3/GA4/GA5 32" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-32GD1 32" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-37GD1 37" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-37GA3/GA4/GA5 37" ..... £ SALE
Sharp Aquos LC-45GD1 45" ..... £ SALE

PROJECTORS

FREE SCREEN WITH SELECTED PROJECTORS

Marantz VP-12S3 DLP ..... £ SALE
Screenplay SP4805 DLP ..... £ SALE
Screenplay SP5700 DLP ..... £ SALE
Screenplay SP7205 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sharp XV-Z91E DLP ..... £ SALE
Sharp XV-Z200 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sharp XV-Z201 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sharp XV-Z2000 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sharp XV-Z12000 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sim 2 Domino 18 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sim 2 Domino 20 DLP ..... £ SALE
Sim 2 Domino 20-H HDMI DLP ..... £ SALE
Sim 2 Domino 30-H HDMI DLP ..... £ SALE
Sim 2 HT300 Xtra HDMI DLP ..... £ SALE
Sim 2 HT500 Link DLP ..... £ SALE
ThemeScene H30 Cinema DLP ..... £ SALE
ThemeScene H57 Cinema DLP ..... £ SALE
ThemeScene H77 Cinema DLP ..... £ SALE
Yamaha DPX1100 DLP ..... £ SALE

REMOTE CONTROLS

Marantz RC5400 ..... £399.95
Marantz RC9200 ..... £799.95
Philips i-Pronto RU1000 ..... £1399.95

WINTER SALE

FINISHES 26TH FEBRUARY 2005

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STORE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR UP-TO-DATE PRICES

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SEE OPPOSITE PAGE FOR DETAILS

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*Added Value Offers- From range available in-store. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Advertisement valid until at least 26/02/05, E&OE.

CLAIM UP TO 25% ACCESSORIES FREE

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CLAIM 10%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£250**
CLAIM 15%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£500**
CLAIM 20%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£1000**
CLAIM 25%*	**WHEN YOU SPEND OVER**	**£2000**

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• 01242 241171

CRAWLEY 32 THE BOULEVARD
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• 020 8579 8777 *OPEN SUNDAY*

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• 0131 229 7267

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• 01372 720720 *OPEN SUNDAY*

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• 01392 218895

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GUILDFORD 73B NORTH STREET
• 01483 536666

HOLBORN 144-148 GRAYS INN ROAD
• 020 7837 7540

HULL 1 SAVILE ROW, SAVILE STREET
• 01482 587171

IPSWICH 12-14 DOGS HEAD STREET
• 01473 286977

KINGSTON 43 FIFE ROAD
• 020 8547 0717 *OPEN SUNDAY*

LEEDS 62 NORTH STREET
• 0113 245 2775 *OPEN SUNDAY*

LEICESTER 10 LOSEBY LANE
• 0116 253 6567

LINCOLN 20-22 CORPORATION STREET
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MAIDSTONE 96 WEEK STREET
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• 0161 831 7969

NEWCASTLE 19 NEWGATE STREET
• 0191 221 2320

NORWICH 29-29A ST GILES STREET
• 01603 767605

NOTTINGHAM 597-599 MANSFIELD ROAD
• 0115 911 2121

OXFORD 41 ST CLEMENTS STREET
• 01865 241773

PETERBOROUGH 36-38 PARK ROAD
• 01733 897697 *OPEN SUNDAY*

PLYMOUTH 107 CORNWALL STREET
• 01752 226011

POOLE LATIMER HOUSE, 44-46 HIGH STREET
• 01202 671677

PRESTON 40-41 LUNE STREET
• 01772 825777 *OPEN SUNDAY*

READING 3-4 KINGS WALK SHOPPING CENTRE
• 0118 959 7768

SEVENOAKS 109-113 LONDON ROAD
• 01732 459555

SHEFFIELD 635 QUEENS ROAD, HEELEY
• 0114 255 5861 *OPEN SUNDAY*

SOLIHULL 149-151 STRATFORD ROAD
• 0121 733 3727

SOUTHAMPTON 33 LONDON ROAD
• 023 8033 7770 *OPEN SUNDAY*

SOUTHGATE 79-81 CHASE SIDE
• 020 8886 2777 *OPEN SUNDAY*

STAINES 4 THAMES STREET
• 01784 460777 *OPEN SUNDAY*

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SWISS COTTAGE 21 NORTHWAYS PDE, FINCHLEY RD
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WATFORD 478 ST ALBANS ROAD
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• 01932 828525

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OPENING HOURS: PLEASE TELEPHONE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
E-MAIL: [insert store location]@sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

WHO ARE SEVENOAKS?

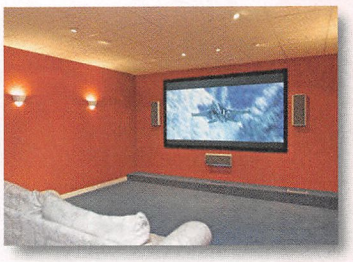
Founded in 1972, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision is one of the largest and most successful hi-fi and home cinema retailers in the country.

Each Sevenoaks Sound & Vision store stocks a wide range of quality products, covering all categories of specialist home entertainment, from Hi-Fi separates and systems to DVD players, widescreen plasma televisions and projection systems, all at highly competitive prices.

Friendly staff are available in all stores to advise, demonstrate and guide you through the home entertainment jungle.

DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES

Our comfortable demonstration rooms are among the finest in the country, many complying with full THX specifications.



CUSTOM INSTALLATION

Sevenoaks Sound & Vision's Custom Installation Service enables the integration of a home cinema or hi-fi system into your home as neatly and seamlessly as possible. All electronics can be hidden away, speakers discreetly mounted either in the wall or ceiling and the complete system operated via remote control.

Our installation experts are fully trained to the highest standards in all areas and provide a prompt, reliable and professional service. Whether you're looking for a multi-room system, a dedicated home cinema installation with a retractable screen and built-in speakers or an integrated control or lighting system, Sevenoaks Sound & Vision has a diverse range of products available to cater for all your requirements.

FREE 8 Page Custom Installation Brochure available now from your nearest store or via our website.

SEVENOAKS WEBSITE

The Sevenoaks Sound & Vision website has news and information on the Sevenoaks group and detailed pages to help you locate your nearest store.

SPECIAL OFFERS

There are hundreds of special offers and stock clearance items available from our stores nationwide - many with savings of up to 50%. To view our regularly updated product lists, visit **www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk** and click on **special offers**

PRICING POLICY

Whilst we do not claim always to be the cheapest, we try to ensure our prices are highly competitive. Take into account the expert advice, unrivalled product selection, demonstration facilities and excellent pre, during and after sales service and the lower price might not look such good value.

In the event you can find the same products and excellent service at a lower price, please bring it to our store managers' attention. We will always endeavour to offer you the best deal.

www.sevenoakssoundandvision.co.uk

Video cables continued...

Essential extras to maximise the quality of your DVD player and other sources

BUDGET Up to £210/m

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: S-Video	TYPE: Scart	TYPE: Component	TYPE: DVI-D	TYPE: HDMI	Length (m)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	CONDUCTOR: Silver	CONDUCTOR: Carbon	CONDUCTOR: Other	Directional	Add. cost, £/m
QED Squart AV 2110	50	03.04/GT	★★★★★	Convincing colours and excellent contrast make this the best Scart at the price.		●				1.0	●	●				
Supra AV3 Component	65	10.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Exemplary colour realism and three-dimensionality.			●			1.0	●					11
Supra AV6 (RGB)	80	04.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Movies benefit from an impressive depth of field.		●				1.0	●				●	13
Supra FS Scart	38	11.04/GT	★★★★★	One of the best budget Scarts we've seen for years.		●				1.0	●					
Thomson KHC019	12	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Not bad value, but the performance isn't as impressive as the best at the price.		●				5.0	●					
TCI S-Video	55	08.00/GT	★★★★★	Sensibly priced, capable cable, with outstanding contrast and depth levels.	●					1.0	●					20
TCI Taipan Scart	90	08.00/GT	★★★★☆	Pricey, but offers sensational performance, with first-rate colour and detail.		●				1.0	●	●				50
TST TV1731	30	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Good step up from basic freebie cables, with smooth colours and edge definition.			●			1.5	●					
TST TV8810-5	27	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Beautifully made and offers a very reasonable level of performance for the price.		●				0.5	●					
Vivanco Prowire Digital	40	03.99	★★★★☆	Reveals plenty of punch and detail, delivering fine pictures for the price.		●				1.5	●					
Vivanco ProWire S-Video	25	03.99	★★★★☆	Delivers a very good performance, with well-detailed and vibrant images.	●					5.0	●					
Vivanco Prowire SHQ7712	40	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Well made and has decent-quality Scart plugs - fine performance for the money.		●				1.2	●				●	
Wireworld Ultraviolet 5 HDMI	130	07.04/GT	★★★★★	An exceptional cable that will add significantly to your viewing experience.				●	●	1.0	●	●			●	30

Digital interconnects

Connect your digital kit with a superior lead

BUDGET Up to £350

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Coaxial	Optical	Length (m)	Diameter (mm)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	CONDUCTOR: Silver	CONDUCTOR: Carbon	CONDUCTOR: Other	Phono term	XLR term	BNC term	Toslink term	Directional
Atlas Compass	50	08.02/GT	★★★★★	Excellent dynamics, fine timing, rock-solid attack, and the tonal balance is spot-on.	●		1.0	8.5	●				●				
Black Rhodium First-Base Crystal	90	09.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Capable of a sound with punch and drive, and high detail resolution. But it's pricey.			1.0					●				●	
Black Rhodium Rhythm	25	09.02/GT	★★★★★	Tight and fast-sounding cable with crisp clarity - affordable with a great sound.	●		1.0		●	●			●				
Chord Company Optichord	40	03.99/GT	★★★★★	Delivers lots of detail enhancing separation, plus has an excellent sense of timing.		●	1.0	6				●				●	
Ecosse The Executive	45	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Lucid-sounding but it lacks the drive of the class best.	●		1.0	n/a	●				●				
Ecosse The Producer	21	09.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. You won't get better interconnects for the money.	●		0.8		●				●				
Ixos XHD-608-100	50	Awd.04	★★★★★	Best digital coaxial cable in Awards 2004.	●		1.0		●	●			●				●

Ixos XHD-608-100

It might only be a small connection between DVD player and receiver, but a good coaxial cable is still a vital cog in anyone's home cinema machinery. For the money, Ixos's XHD-608-100 is a highly talented upgrade that'll give your system a more muscular and detailed sound – a great buy, and our favourite coaxial cable.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST DIGITAL COAXIAL CABLE OVER £30
Ixos XHD-608-100

Nordost Moonglo II	179	09.02/GT	★★★★☆	Good but expensive. Consider if you're in possession of a very high-end system.	●		1.0		●	●			●	●	●		●
Nordost Moonglow SL Shadow	368	09.00/GT	★★★★☆	There's no denying the MSS produces a fabulous sound, but it's expensive.	●		1.0		●	●			●	●	●		●
Profigold PGD4000	42	08.02/GT	★★★★☆	Well specified, weighty sounding cable. Higher frequencies are nicely resolved.	●		0.75		●				●				
Profigold PGD481	21	10.01/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Dynamics are particularly impressive for the price.	●		1.0		●				●				
QED QUNEX OT(was Qnect)	30	10.01/GT	★★★★☆	Good value interconnect - the presentation is smooth without being boring.		●	1	5				●				●	
Supra Trico	45	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Bargain upgrade for almost any home cinema set-up.	●		1.0	8	●				●		●		●
Supra X-ZAC	60	09.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. The Supra X-ZAC is great for optical-only connections.		●	1.0	8				●				●	●
True Colours Industries Adder	70	09.00/GT	★★★★☆	Refined performer that's well balanced tonally - good but not a class leader.	●		1.0	7	●				●		●		●
van den Hul Optocoupler	50	09.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. This is one of the best optical links around.		●	1	7.5				●				●	

CD players

A dedicated player will maximise CD sound quality

BUDGET Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: Intergrated	TYPE: Multidisc	TYPE: Transport	TYPE: DAC	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: Coax digital out	Optical digital out	XLR out	RCA out	Coax digital in	Optical digital in	Headphone out	HDCD	CD Text	Memory	Display off	Finishes
Arcam DiVA CD73T	400	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Best CD player £250-£500 in Awards 2004. Leading choice at this price.	●				●	●		●					●	●	●	2
Audio Analogue Primo CD	475	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Amiable performer, but the class-leaders point offer a step-up in quality.	●				●			●								Sl
Cambridge Audio Azur 540C	200	05.04/FT	★★★★★	Stonking - the sound is the equal of machines that cost a whole lot more.	●				●	●		●						●		2
Cambridge Audio Azur 640C	250	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Best CD player under £250 in Awards 2004. Stunning value for money.	●				●	●		●						●		2
Cyrus CD6	600	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Best CD player £500-£1000 in Awards 2004. Astounding detail.	●					●		●						●	●	2
Denon DCD-485	140	01.02/ST	★★★★☆	This Denon is full of character and an exciting listen - match with care.	●					●					●			●	●	Bk
Exposure 2010 Titanium	599	09.03/ST	★★★★☆	Highly entertaining performer, though it has some minor shortcomings.	●				●	●								●	●	2
Inca Design Katana	600	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Little in its class comes close in sonic performance to this well built player.	●				●	●	●	●				●		●	●	Sl
Marantz CD5400	150	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Remarkable player for the money, with superb sound, looks and feel.	●				●	●		●			●		●	●		2
Myryad Z110	500	09.02/GT	★★★☆☆	This product lacks the magic of the company's established machines.	●				●									●	●	2
NAD C521BEE	200	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Open and involving, and still a bargain.	●				●			●						●		2
NAD C542	330	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Maintains NAD's impressive run of affordable, quality separates.	●				●	●		●				●		●		Gr
Pioneer PD-F1007	300	09.99/FT	★★★☆☆	Average sound but great for parties, pubs or the incredibly lazy.	●	●				●		●	●	●	●		●	●		Bk
Pioneer PD-F1009	250	11.00/GT	★★★★☆	Logical and fuss-free to program - a hard multiplayer to beat for sound.	●	●				●		●			●		●	●		Bk
Pioneer PD-F958	230	11.99/FT	★★★☆☆	It's easy to use, but the Pioneer's sound ultimately disappoints.	●	●				●		●			●		●	●		Bk
Rega Planet	498	11.02/ST	★★★★☆	A fine choice for those who want something just a little different.	●				●	●		●					●	●	●	2

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

CD players continued...

A dedicated player will maximise CD sound quality

BUDGET Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: Intergrated	TYPE: Multidisc	TYPE: Transport	TYPE: DAC	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: Coax digital out	Optical digital out	XLR out	RCA out	Coax digital in	Optical digital in	Headphone out	HDCD	CD Text	Memory	Display off	Finishes
Roksan Kandy MkIII	650	12.03/ST	★★★★★	Stunning mix of detail and sonic clout that challenges Roksan's Caspian.	●				●			●						●		6
Rotel RCD 1072	595	09.03/ST	★★★★☆	Beautifully built and a joy to use, but it lacks a little bit of sparkle.	●				●			●				●		●		Sl
Rotel RCD-02	379	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Punchy performer - bassheads will especially enjoy its tight delivery.	●				●			●				●		●		Sl
Sony SCD-XE597 (SACD)	150	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Fine player and it is worth a look if you like your music safe.	●					●		●			●			●		2
TEAC C-1D	240	08.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Respectable offering from Teac but unlikely to set hearts a-flutter.	●					●					●			●	●	Sl
Yamaha CDX-396	130	02.02/GT	★★★★☆	Smooth, system-friendly player - will tame bright-sounding systems.	●					●		●						●	●	Bl
Yamaha CDX-496	190	01.02/ST	★★★☆☆	The Yamaha is a good machine for the cash with a relaxing, warm sound.	●					●		●			●			●	●	Bl

BUDGET £601 to £2000

Arcam DiVA CD192	850	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Sensational disc-spinner with bags of sonic appeal.	●				●	●		●					●	●	●	2
Arcam FMJ CD33	1350	05.04/GT	★★★★☆	Not short of musical talent but it lacks the bite of the class leaders.	●				●	●								●	●	Sl
Audio Note DAC One 1x	900	09.00/FT	★★★★★	Superbly natural, this cracking DAC succeeds in giving CDs new life.				●	●			●	●							Sl
Audio Refinement Complete	875	02.00/FT	★★★☆☆	Superb styling and build, but the sound can't quite match the looks.	●				●			●								2
AVI Laboratory Series	1400	08.04/FT	★★★★☆	Not the cutting-edge design we hoped for.	●				●	●										Bk
Creek CD50 Mk2	850	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Superb player but it lacks the style and some of the flair of its rivals.	●				●	●		●						●		Sl
Cyrus CD8/PSX-R	1350	05.04/GT	★★★★★	Winner on its own but stuns with the off-board PSX-R power supply.	●				●	●		●	●	●				●	●	Sl
Cyrus CD8x	1000	11.04/GT	★★★★★	CD player Product of the Year in Awards 2004. Sensational detail.	●				●	●		●						●	●	2

Cyrus CD8x

The way our CD player Product of the Year brings music to life is worringly addictive – you can't wait to swap from one favourite track to the next. Bass is taut, well-defined and musical, while treble is smoother and incredibly refined, and vocals and instruments ooze emotion and life. This CD player is a dream come true.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
CD PLAYER
CYRUS CD8x

Exposure 22	1395	04.04/FT	★★★★☆	Achieves a big and effortless sound, but the competition is strong.	●				●	●								●	●	Al
Inca Design Katana SE	1000	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Special edition of the Katana - now a dancer out of what was a musician.	●				●	●	●	●				●		●	●	Sl
Linn Genki	1100	03.03/ST	★★★★★	Gloriously musical and beautifully built - we like this Linn a great deal.	●				●			●				●		●	●	Bk
Meridian G07	1595	06.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Plenty of substance, but the Meridian lacks the sparkle to really impress.	●				●	●		●						●	●	Bk
Monrio Asty Player	895	04.00/FT	★★★★★	Classy Italian product that offers a sophisticated and entertaining sound.	●				●			●						●		Sl
Moon Equinox	1950	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Class machine for those who plan long, indulgent listening sessions.	●				●			●						●	●	Bk
NAD Silverline S500i	1200	03.03/ST	★★★★☆	A very good player from NAD, but its sound is a little unpredictable.	●				●		●	●						●		Sl
Naim CD5x	1450	12.04/FT	★★★★★	Musical, refined and built to last. Replaces the CD5i, well worth the wait.	●							●				●				Bk
Naim Nait CD5i	825	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Still a fine-sounding player, but it now has too many classy opponents.	●							●						●	●	Bk
Onkyo C-1VL	800	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	There are now far more capable players around for not much more money.	●				●	●		●						●	●	Sl
Orelle CD100evo2	1300	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Plenty of sonic prowess but can't quite match the appeal of the top players.	●							●							●	Sl
Primare D30.2	1500	12.02/ST	★★★★☆	Solid performer - works best when connected through balanced outputs.	●				●			●						●	●	Bk
Quad 99CD-P	1000	11.04/ST	★★★★☆	Still highly capable, but is being overtaken by some newer models.	●					●		●	●	●				●	●	Sl
Rega Jupiter	1098	03.03/ST	★★★★☆	Smooth, rich and detailed - this machine's warmth will appeal to many.	●				●	●		●					●	●	●	2
Roksan Caspian M series-1	1100	11.04/GT	★★★★★	A canny piece of kit and well worth the money - real class-contender.	●				●			●						●		Sl
Sugden Bijou CD Master	1299	11.01	★★★★☆	Cute with plenty of weight and authority, but bass lines can sound slow.	●				●			●						●		Sl
TAG McLaren Audio CDT20R-T2L	750	11.00/FT	★★★★★	Combine with the DPA32R DAB for an extremely musical player.				●	●	●			●	●						Sl
Tube Technology Fusion CD64	1990	11.03/FT	★★★★★	It looks distinctive and sounds lovely - buy the tailor-made lead.	●				●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●	2
Unison Research Unico CD	1195	05.04/GT	★★★★☆	Gives you plenty of bang for your buck, but lacks overall subtlety.	●				●		●	●	●							St

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RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456 777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···›

CD players continued...

A dedicated player will maximise CD sound quality

BUDGET £601 to £2000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: Intergrated	Multidisc	Transport	DAC	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: Coax digital out	Optical digital out	XLR out	RCA out	Coax digital in	Optical digital in	Headphone out	HDCD	CD Text	Memory	Display off	Finishes
Audionet ART V2	2300	01.04/FT	★★★★★	A big sound that allows long listening, not short on detail or dynamics.					●		●	●								2
Linn Ikemi	2200	04.00/FT	★★★★☆	Precise and punchy sound, but falls short of the best at this price.	●				●	●	●	●				●		●	●	Bk
Moon Eclipse	5950	04.00/FT	★★★★☆	Very worthy machine that can be breathtaking when carefully partnered.	●				●		●	●	●					●	●	2
Naim CDS3/XPS2	7244	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Best CD player over £2000 in Awards 2004. Fully justifies frightening price.	●							●				●		●	●	Bk
Resolution Audio Opus 21	2850	06.04/FT	★★★★★	This is the best disc spinner we've seen anywhere near this price.	●						●	●	●					●	●	3
Sony SCD-XA9000ES (SACD)	2400	06.04/FT	★★★★☆	Excels in many areas, but appeals more to the head than the heart.	●				●	●		●			●		●	●		2
Sugden Masterclass	2700	06.02/FT	★★★★★	Excellent - superb when combined with the Masterclass amplifier.	●				●			●	●					●		Sl
TEAC D-70	5000	12.03/FT	★★★★★	With the P-70 CD transport this is up there with the finest around.				●			●		●	●					●	Bk
TEAC P-70	5500	12.03/FT	★★★★★	P-70/D-70 combo - a contender for the best player in the world.			●		●	●	●	●	●	●					●	Bk

Recorders

Archive your favourite tunes with a recorder to suit your system

BUDGET Up to £1500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	FORMATS: CD-R	CD-RW	Minidisc	Hard disk	Cassette	INPUTS & OUTPUTS: Coax digital in	Optical digital in	Line in	Coax digital out	Optical digital	Headphone out	Dolby	Dolby HXPro	Remote	No. of heads	Finishes
Denon CDR-W1500	450	02.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	Twin-tray machine - it's too expensive, so can't compete with rivals.	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●			●		2
NAD C660	450	07.02/GT	★★★★☆	Fine-sounding twin-deck machine - CD playback and recording.	●	●				●	●	●	●	●						Gr
Pioneer CT-S250	150	08.97	★★★★☆	Sensibly-priced and capable of good results. Cheaper rivals.					●			●				B/C			2	Bk
Pioneer CT-W606DR (dual)	200	08.01	★★★★☆	Good budget buy for making faithful tape-to-tape copies.					●			●			●	B/C		●	2	Bk
Pioneer CT-W806DR (dual)	300	10.97	★★★★☆	Highly recommended in Awards 1997. Great fun and innovative.					●		●	●				B/C		●	2	
Pioneer MJ-D508	200	07.02	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Great for recording pop music.			●			●	●	●	●		●	-			-	Bk
Pioneer PDR-609	280	02.03/GT	★★★★☆	Product of the Year in Awards '02. Good, but rivals have overtaken.	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●	-			-	Bk
Sony MDS-JE480	130	09.02/FT	★★★☆☆	Capable deck for the money - does a good job of recording.			●				●	●								2
TEAC V-1050	180	09.98	★★★★★	Great price - everything a home recording fan could ask for.					●						●	B/C		●	3	Bk
Yamaha CDR-HD1300MkII	600	02.03/GT	★★★★★	Best CD/HDD recorder in Awards 2004. CD-RW and 120G hard disk.	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●					Bk

Yamaha CDR-HD1300II

Product of choice in this category last year, the Yamaha has all the bells and whistles allowing you to rip, burn and archive CD-R/-RWs via the spacious hard disk. The enhanced MkII version now has a storage-friendly 120GB hard drive (up from 80GB), which is good for around 180 hours of uncompressed music.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST CD/HDD RECORDER Yamaha CDR-HD1300II

Yamaha KX-393	160	09.98	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2001. Still produces excellent results.					●			●			●	B/C		●	2	
Yamaha KX-493	200	04.99	★★★★★	A purist deck delivering great performance for not much money.					●			●			●	B/C		●	2	
Yamaha KX-580SE	250	08.01	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Quality copies and good sound.					●			●			●	B/C/S		●	2	

Music servers

One smart hard-drive box to hold all your tunes and fill your home with music

BUDGET Up to £3000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	RECORDING: Capacity (GB)	Max (GB)	Uncompressed	MP3	Max MP3 data rate	INPUTS: Coaxial	Optical	Line	OUTPUTS: Coaxial	Optical	Line	Zones	Wireless built-in
Cyrus CyrusLink	2995	03.04/FT	★★★★☆	Flexible, fine-sounding wireless multiroom system. Not cheap.	160	250	●	●	128,192,320	●	●	●	●	●	●	3	

Cyrus CyrusLink

"Wireless Cyrus fills the whole house with music" was our headline when we tested the CyrusLink system in March 2004. And that's what it's capable of, with aplomb: sound quality is comparable with a good CD player. Cyrus has taken a bold step towards the future of home entertainment, even if it isn't cheap.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION BEST IN CLASS

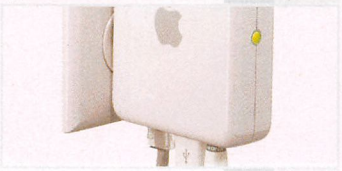
Yamaha MusicCAST server	1800	11.03	★★★★★	Wireless multiroom system - coolest product we've tested in years.	80	2000	●	●	320	●	●	●	●	●	●	8	●

Music server clients

Link with a music server and deliver tunes to every room in the house

BUDGET Up to £1,000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	INPUTS: Coaxial	Optical	Line	OUTPUTS: Coaxial	Optical	Line	Built-in amp	Tuner FM/AM	Wireless built-in
Apple AirPort Express	99	Awd.04	★★★★★	Technology Product of the Year in Awards 2004.					●	●			●



Apple AirPort Express

The AirPort Express is the winner of our first ever Technology Product of the Year Award? We honoured this innocuous little gadget because it's the missing link between your computer and your hi-fi. Play any MP3 file on your Wi-Fi-enabled computer and it's wirelessly transmitted to your hi-fi via AirPort – genius!

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR TECHNOLOGY APPLE AIRPORT EXPRESS

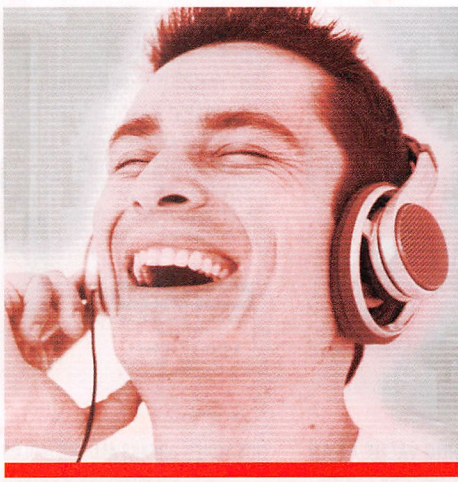
Opus Technologies Opus	5740	UHIFI.03	★★★★★	Fine sound from this fairly easy to install multi-room solution - tested with the Marantz DH9300.				●		●	●	●	●

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS 08456777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218



DON'T MISS THE UNBEATABLE OFFERS THROUGHOUT THE STORE IN OUR MASSIVE

NOW ON!

SALE

Panasonic TH42PE30 Award Winning 42" Plasma TV

- 94cmV 16:9 Widescreen Panel
- Integrated Digital Terrestrial Tuner
- Integrated Speakers
- SD/PC Card Slot
- Smart Sound Speaker System

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JULY 2004 · BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO · HOME CINEMA BEST BUY · WhatPlasma? Best Buy · Best Buy

OR UPGRADE THESE TO DMRE65 ONLY £99 OR DMRE75 ONLY £149 OR DMRE85 ONLY £299 OR DMRE95 ONLY £499 OR DMRE500 ONLY £850

TMMP £3499

£DEAL

Panasonic TX26LXD1 Award Winning 26" LCD TV & Stand

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

- New LCD AI • HD Panel
- 16-msec Quick Motion Picture Response
- Full Digital Processor
- Wing-Type Stereo 4-Speakers
- SD/PC Card Slots

AMAZING DEAL ON THIS PRODUCT!

WhatPlasma? Best Buy · BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO · WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEPTEMBER 2004

32" VERSION TX32LXD1 ALSO 5 STAR WHAT HIFI WINNER OCTOBER 2004

£DEAL

Panasonic TX36PD50 Award Winning Acuity TV & Stand

NEW!

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

OR UPGRADE DVD/ VCR COMBI TO SCHT520 Home Cinema only £49 DMRE55 DVD Recorder only £69 DMRE65 DVD REcorder only £129 DMRE75 DVD Rec/VCR only £199 DMRE85 80GB HARD DR only £349 DMRE95 160GB HARD DR only £549 when bought with this TV.

TMMP £1699

32" VERSION TX32PD50 WITH SAME OFFER AS ABOVE ONLY £949!

£1249

Panasonic TX28PM11 Award Winning 28" 100Hz Widescreen TV Inc Stand

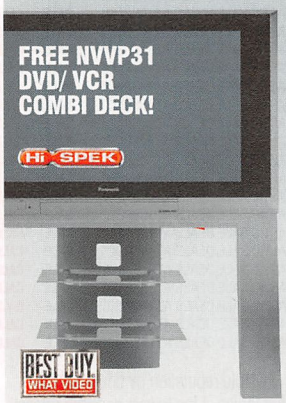
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

OR UPGRADE DVD/ VCR COMBI TO SCHT520 Home Cinema only £49 DMRE55 DVD Recorder only £69 DMRE65 DVD REcorder only £129 DMRE75 DVD Rec/VCR only £199 DMRE85 80GB HARD DR only £349 DMRE95 160GB HARD DR only £549 when bought with this TV.

ORIG £649

£379

Panasonic TX32DTX40 Award Winning 32" 100Hz IDTV Inc Stand



10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

OR UPGRADE DVD/ VCR COMBI TO SCHT520 Home Cinema only £49 DMRE55 DVD Recorder only £69 DMRE65 DVD REcorder only £129 DMRE75 DVD Rec/VCR only £199 DMRE85 80GB HARD DR only £349 when bought with this TV.

ORIG £1049

£799

Offers and deals subject to change - please check

Panasonic FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

TX17LX2	17"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX20LA2	20"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX22LX2	22"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX26LXD1	26"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX32LXD1	32"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TH37PW7	37"PLASMA TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TH42PW7	42"PLASMA TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX28PM11	28"100HZ NICAM TV /STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX32PM11	32"100HZ NICAM TV /STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX28DTX1	28" FREEVIEW TV/STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX32PD50	32"ACUITY TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
TX36PD50	36" ACUITY TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
PTAE500	LCD PROJECTOR	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
PTAE700	LCD PROJECTOR	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
SCHT520	DVD HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
SCHT25R	DVD REC HOME CINEMA SYS	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
SCHT37R	DVD REC HOME CINEMA SYS	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
SCHT1500	DVD REC HOME CINEMA SYS	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DMRE55	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DMRE65	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DMRE75	DVD RECORDER /VCR COMBI	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DMRE95	DVD REC + 160GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DMRE500	DVD REC + 250GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL

THE VERY BEST DEALS AND GREAT SERVICE

Hi-Spek is committed to providing you with the very best deals and a first class service right through your buying experience.

0% APR

Interest Free Credit is available on all purchases over £400*. Ask for details.

FREE DELIVERY

We deliver to anywhere on the UK mainland although some highland areas are excluded†. Please ask.

EXPERT ADVICE

Whether visiting our stores or calling our Mail order hotline, our fully trained consultants will be happy to offer expert advice and assistance on your purchase.

LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

Our fully trained consultants take pride in providing demonstrations on some of the newest technologies.

AFTER SALES SUPPORT

Hi-Spek has a dedicated team of support personnel who are committed to providing excellent post sales service in case the need arises.

HUGE BUYING POWER

Hi-Spek is part of a buying group whose purchases exceed £1/2 billion which means that we get the very best offers from all main manufacturers and brands.

*Subject to status. This is available to visitors to our stores and mail order customers. †Delivery is normally next day although larger purchase may take 3-4 days. ²Ask for written details.

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT **FREE** 0% APR

10 months Interest Free Credit is available on all purchases over £400. Subject to status. Ask for Written Details. Eg; Cash Price £500. Deposit £50. 9 Equal Monthly Payments of £50. Total Payable £500. 0% APR.

CHECK OUT OUR LATEST DEALS ON THIS PRODUCT!
FREE RDRGX300 DVD RECORDER OR DAVSB100 HOME CINEMA SYSTEM
HiSPEK

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCTOBER 2004

WEGA Freeview

FREE

SONY

KDEP37XS1 Brand New 37" Plasma TV & Stand

This superb Sony Plasma Television is now available at a new low price and comes with a free Sony DVD Recorder worth up to £300 while offer lasts. Supplied with table stand. Floor stand optional.

- 37" 16:9 Screen
- Integrated tuner stand and speakers
- 7 Day EPG • New ALIS Panel
- FREEVIEW WEGA Engine system
- 3D comb Filter for PAL/NTSC
- Memory stick slot
- Still and motion playback
- Dual Surround
- New slim remote commander

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST LCD/PLASMA TV 36-42IN Sony KDE-P37XS1

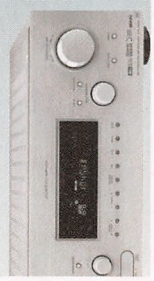
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

£DEAL

UPGRADE TO DAVSB300 ONLY £69 OR DAVSB500W ONLY £199 OR DAVSR4W ONLY £499 OR RDRGX700 ONLY £149 OR RDRHX900 ONLY £249! KDEP42XS1 42" VERSION AT NEW LOW PRICE WITH FREE DVD RECORDER

SONY

STRDB795 Award Winning Home Cinema Receiver



- 100 watts x 7
- 60 FM/AM presets
- Dolby Digital, DTS, Dolby Pro Logic IIx, Dolby Digital EX, DTS ES, DTS 96/24, DTS Neo:6

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEPTEMBER 2004

£DEAL

AMAZING VALUE AT AN INCREDIBLE PRICE!!

SONY

STSDB900 Award Winning Digital DAB Tuner

- AM/FM/DAB Tuner
- DAB QS tuner
- Aluminium front panel
- Advanced reception circuit

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR TUNER SONY ST-SDB900

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOVEMBER 2004

£DEAL

THIS TUNER BREAKS ALL THE MOLDS FOR PERFORMANCE & PRICE!!

SONY

KLVL32M1
32" LCD TV & Stand

This superb Sony LCD Television is now available at a new low price and comes with a free Sony DVD Recorder worth up to £300 while offer lasts.

- Integrated tuner, stand and speakers
- 3D comb fitter for PAL/NTSC
- WEGA Engine System • W-XGA panel
- Available in black or silver

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

UPGRADE TO DAVSB300 ONLY £69 OR DAVSB500W ONLY £199 OR DAVSR4W ONLY £499 OR RDRGX700 ONLY £149 OR RDRHX900 ONLY £249

£DEAL

SONY

RDRHX900 DVD Recorder with 160GB Hard Drive

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST DVD/HDD RECORDER Sony RDR-HX900

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCTOBER 2004

£DEAL

FULL RANGE OF SONY LCD TV'S ON DISPLAY & IN STOCK

SONY FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

KLV17HR3	17" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KLV20SR3	20" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KLV21SR2	21" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KLV23M1	23" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KLV26HG2	26" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KLV27HR3	27" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KLV30HR3	30" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KDLL32MRX1	32" LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KEP42M1	42" PLASMA TV/STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KD32DX200	32"100HZ FREEVIEW TV/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KV32CS70	32"100HZ TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
KF42SX300	42"PROJECTION TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VPLHS3	LCD PROJECTOR	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VPLHS50	LCD PROJECTOR	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DAVD150	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DAVSB500	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DAVSR4W	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
STRDB795S	HOME THEATRE RECEIVER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
RDRGX300	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
RDRGX700	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
RDRGXD500	DVD REC INC FREEVIEW	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
RDRHX900	DVD REC + 160GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
RDRHX1000	DVD REC + 250GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL

BOSE

Lifestyle 38
Brand New Lifestyle System

This high-performing Lifestyle® DVD system digitally stores up to 200 hours of music and adds life to movies. Includes progressive scan DVD/CD player and Direct/Reflecting® cube speaker arrays. ADAPTiQ® system customizes sound to your room.

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

UP TO £500 TRADE IN AGAINST YOUR OLD DVD PLAYER!!

£DEAL

BOSE FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

AM3	STEREO SATS & SUB	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
AM5	STEREO SATS & SUB	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
AM6	HOME CINEMA PACKAGE	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
AM10	HOME CINEMA PACKAGE	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
AM15	HOME CINEMA PACKAGE	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
LIFESTYLE	DVD HOME CINEMA SYS	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
18MK2	DVD HOME CINEMA SYS	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL
LIFESTYLE	DVD HOME CINEMA SYS	TRADE IN DEAL & 0%APR!!	SALE	CALL

BOSE

Lifestyle 48

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

UP TO £500 TRADE IN AGAINST YOUR OLD DVD PLAYER!!

£DEAL

BOSE

Acoustimass 15
6.1 Home Cinema Speaker Sys.

- Includes 5 Direct/ Reflecting® twin speaker arrays
- Powered Acoustimass® module

TMMP £1049.99

£DEAL

FREE GOODS AND 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Pioneer

PDP435XDE
Award Winning Plasma TV

NEW MODEL WITH DIGITAL FREEVIEW RECEIVER
HiSPEK

Freeview Best Buy

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

- High Resolution Display
- Super-bright and high-quality picture
- Highly functional Multimedia Receiver
- Optional side or under-mounted speakers
- Digital Noise Reduction

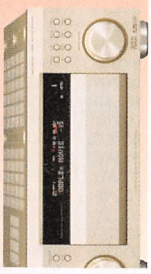
BRAND NEW 50" VERSION PDP505XDE ALSO AVAILABLE

TMMP £4499

£DEAL

Pioneer

VSX2014i Award Winning Home Cinema Receiver



- 7 x 100 Watts
- THX SELECT
- I.LINK interface (two-way)
- M.C.A.C.C. (automatic calibration with microphone and EQ)

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOVEMBER 2004

£DEAL

FANTASTIC PRICES & 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT!!

Pioneer FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

PDP435XDE	NEW 43" PLASMA TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
PDP505XDE	NEW 50" PLASMA TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DCS323	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DCS525	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
NSDV1000	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VSXC502S	HOME THEATRE RECEIVER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VSXD814S	HOME THEATRE RECEIVER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VSX1014S	HOME THEATRE RECEIVER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VSX2014S	HOME THEATRE RECEIVER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VSXAX5AiS	HOME THEATRE AMPLIFIER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
VSAAX10AiS	HOME THEATRE AMPLIFIER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DV370	AWARD WINNING DVD PL	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DV575	AWARD WINNING DVD PL	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DV668AV	AWARD WINNING DVD PL	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DV868AVi	AWARD WINNING DVD PL	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVR220	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVR520	DVD REC + 80GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVR720	DVD REC + 160GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVR920	DVD REC + 250GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL

LATEST TECHNOLOGIES

We have built our enviable reputation by bringing you the very latest technologies at the lowest possible prices!

Offers and deals subject to change - please check

*Subject to status. This is available to visitors to our stores and mail order customers.
†Delivery is normally next day although larger purchase may take 3-4 days.
‡Excluding Plasma & LCD TV's. ²Ask for written details.
0% APR Deal is over 10 Equal Instalments.

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT FREE 0%APR

10 months Interest Free Credit is available on all purchases over £400. Subject to status. Ask for Written Details. Eg; Cash Price £500. Deposit £50. 9 Equal Monthly Payments of £50. Total Payable £500. 0% APR.

PHILIPS FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

15PF8946	15"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
17PF9946	17"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
23PF9945	23"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	SALE
23PF8946	23"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
26PF9956	26"LCD TV INC PIXEL+/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
30PF9946	30"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
30PF9975	30"LCD TV INC PIXEL+/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
37PF9946	37"LCD TV INC STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
37PF9986	37"LCD TV INC PIXEL+/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
42PF9986	42"LCD TV INC PIXEL+/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
42PF9965	42"LCD TV INC PIXEL+/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
42PF9966	42"PLASMA TV WITH PIXEL+	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
107FP4	42"PLASMA TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	SALE
28PW6518	28" NICAM TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
28PW9509	28"100HZ PIXEL+2 TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
32PW9618	32" DOLBY DIGITAL TV/PIXEL+	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVDR610	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
HDRW720	DVD REC + 80GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LX3900	HOME THEATRE SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVP620	DVD/VCR COMBI	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL

0% APR Interest Free Credit is available on all purchases over £400*. Ask for details.

PHILIPS 32PF9986
Brand New 32" LCD TV & Stand

- 32" LCD TV with the Revolutionary Brand New Pixel Plus 2 Technology
- Stand Included

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 BEST LCD/PLASMA TV 30-36IN Philips 32PF9986

PIXEL PLUS 2

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION OCTOBER 2004 ★★★★★ HOME CINEMA BEST BUY BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO

FREE

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

TMMP £2499

CALL NOW FOR AMAZING DEALS ON 37PF9986 & 42PF9986 ALSO

£DEAL

PHILIPS 32PW9509 Award Winning 32" 100Hz Widescreen TV

- Digital Natural Motion and Crystal Clear
- Widescreen Plus and Picture Freeze
- Dolby Virtual • 30 W RMS
- Top Controls and Program list
- 6 Widescreen modes and Autoformat
- 3 SCART sockets (2 RGB)
- 1200 Page Easy Text

PIXEL PLUS 2

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR CRT TV PHILIPS 32PW9509

28" VERSION 28PW9509 NOW ALSO ON AN AMAZING DEAL!

£DEAL

SHARP LC26GA5E
NEW!

New 26" LCD TV & Stand

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

£DEAL

AMAZING NEW LOW PRICE!

SHARP LC20SH1E
NEW!

New 20" LCD TV & Stand

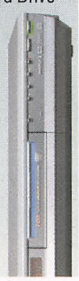
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

£DEAL

FULL RANGE OF NEW SHARP LCD TV'S NOW IN STOCK

JVC DRMH30 Award Winning DVD Recorder With Hard Drive

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²



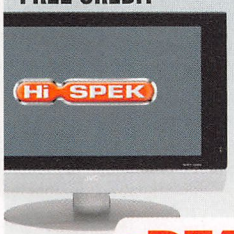
- 160GB Hard Drive
- DVD navigation
- Animated thumbnail
- Live memory function

£DEAL

FULL RANGE OF JVC LCD TV'S AND DVD RECORDERS NOW ON SALE!

JVC LT32D50 New 32" LCD TV Inc Freeview & Stand
NEW!

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²



£DEAL

FULL RANGE OF JVC LCD & PLASMA TV'S ON DISPLAY AND IN STOCK

JVC FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

LT17C50	17"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LT17D50	17"LCD FREEVIEW TV/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LT23C50	23"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LT23D50	23"LCD FREEVIEW TV/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LT26D50	26"LCD FREEVIEW TV/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LT32C31	32"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
LT32D50	32"LCD FREEVIEW TV/STND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
AV42B50	42"PLASMA INC STND/TUNER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
AV28T4	28" NICAM TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
AV28X4	28"100HZ NICAM TV /STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
AV32X4	32"100HZ NICAM TV /STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
THS3R	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
THSW8	HOME CINEMA SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DRM10	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DRMV1	DVD RECORDER /VCR COMBI	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DRMH30	DVD REC + 160GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DRMX1	DVD REC/VCR/160GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DRDX7	DVD REC/MINI DV/250GB HD	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL

TOSHIBA FULL RANGE IN STOCK AND ON DISPLAY. HERE IS A SMALL SELECTION.

15VL33	15"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
17WL46	17"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
20VL44	20"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
26WL46	26"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
27WL46	27"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
30WL46	30"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
32WL46	32"LCD TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
42WH46	42"100HZ LCD PROJ TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
32ZP48	32"100HZ PICTURE FRAME TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
36ZP48	36"100HZ PICTURE FRAME TV	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
28Z44	28" NICAM TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
28ZH46	28"100HZ TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
32ZH46	32"100HZ TV INC STAND	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DR3	DVD RECORDER	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
DVR3	DVD RECORDER/VCR COMBI	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
RDXS32	DVD REC + 80GB H/DRIVE	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
SD44	HOME THEATRE SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL
SD63	HOME THEATRE SYSTEM	FANTASTIC SALE DEALS AT HISPEK!!	SALE	CALL

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32" LCD TV Including Stand

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT²

- 1366 x 768 Resolution
- 500:1 Contrast Ratio
- 3 x SCART sockets (2 RGB)
- S-Video, Component Video
- Active Vision LCD Processing
- HDMI Digital Input

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DV79

- HDMi video output
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- 12-bit 216 MHz video DACs

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AVR300

- 7x 100 watts per channel • RDS tuner
- Dolby Digital EX, DTS ES, DTS 24/96 & Dolby Pro logic IIx decoding
- Audiophile sound quality for movies and music • Video up conversion
- HDTV comp. Component/RGB switching

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CD73T CD Player **SALE** A65 PLUS Amplifier **SALE** DV78 DVD Player **SALE**
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ARCAM AWARD WINNING HIFI ON SALE. CALL FOR BEST PRICES!

MJ ACOUSTICS

REF 100
Award Winning Subwoofer

- 120w True RMS amp panel
- Single downward firing 8" long throw driver
- High & Low level simultaneous connection capable.
- Digital display - easy setup
- Infinitely variable frequency contour
- Produces a superb low 13Hz

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT[2]

PRO 50 Subwoofer **£299**
REF 200 Subwoofer **£CALL**

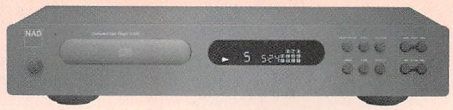
£349

NAD

C352CT Award Winning Amplifier

£349

C542 Award Winning CD Player



C320BEE Amplifier **£199** C372 Amplifier **£437** C521 CD Player **£179**

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT[2]

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PURE

DRX702ES
Award Winning
Digital DAB Tuner

- DAB/FM/AM Radio Tuner
- USB Connect
- LED Display

Also Available
EVOKE 1XT Only **£99**
EVOKE 2 **£129**
POCKET DAB **£149**

TMMP £349

£269

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NEW!

REF300 MK2
Brand New Hifi System
With DAB Tuner

- 45W + 45W • 6-input selector
- 10 DAB, 30 AM, 30 PM station memory
- Remote control
- 1-bit DAC 8-times oversampling CD Player • Auto reverse cassette deck

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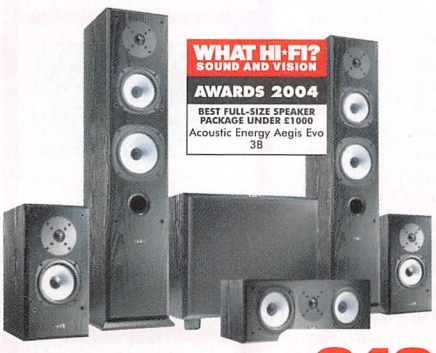

£649

ACOUSTIC ENERGY

AELITE 5.1
Award Winning Speaker Package

Also available
AEGIS EVO 1 Bookshelf Spkr **£129**
AEGIS EVO 3 Floorstanding Spkr **£249**
AEGIS EVO Centre **£109**
AEGIS EVO Subwoofer **£219**
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MISSION

M30 Speaker Package

Also available M7S 5.1 Speaker Package with Subwoofer, 5 Satellite Speakers & Front Stands only **£149!!** (Originally £399)

TMMP £479

BRAND NEW MISSION M3i PACKAGE ALSO NOW AVAILABLE AND ON SALE!

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KEF

Q7AV
Award Winning
Speaker Package

Consisting Of:

- Kef Q7 Front Speakers
- Kef PSW2500 Subwoofer
- Kef Q9C Centre
- 2 Pairs Kef Q2DS Surround Effect

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KEF

KHT2005.2
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10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT[2]

- Supplied with 5 satellite speakers & active subwoofer

KEF PRODUCTS ONLY AVAILABLE IN-STORE

£DEAL

KEF

KIT100
Award Winning Home Cinema System

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT[2]

- DTS decoder, Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro Logic II
- DVD player
- Digital Tuner

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AWARDS 2004
BEST HOME CINEMA IN A BOX OVER £1000
KEF KIT 100

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- Powerful 32-bit Yamaha LSI for CINEMA DSP processing
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2 YEAR WARRANTY & 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT[2]

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YAMAHA
AV50 Fantastic Value Home Theatre Package

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AMAZING VALUE 5.1 HOME CINEMA PACKAGE - 5 SATELLITE SPEAKERS & ACTIVE SUB

YAMAHA
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10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT[2]

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

ORIG £459.99

£279

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PDM4210	42" PLASMA TV	10MTH 0%APR	£3,999.99	£2999.99
RXV450RDS	6.1 CH AV RECEIVER	WITH FREE 6.1 SPEAKER PACKAGE	£399.99	£299.99
RXV1500	7.1 CH AV RECEIVER	10 MTH 0%APR	£699.99	CALL
RXV2500	NEW 7.1 CH AV RECEIVER	10 MTH 0%APR	SALE	CALL
RXSL100RDS	6.1 CH AV RECEIVER	10 MTH 0%APR	SALE	CALL
DSPZ9	FLAGSHIP AV AMPLIFIER	10 MTH 0%APR	£3,299.99	£2,799.99
DSPE800	5.1CHANNEL PROCESSOR	AWARD WINNER!!	£369.99	£175.99
DVDS550	DVD PLAYER	MULTIREGION AVAILABLE	£149.99	£124.99
DVSL100	DVD PLAYER	MULTIREGION AVAILABLE	SALE	£169.99
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YSTSW015	70W ACTIVE SUBWOOFER		£139.95	£109.99
YSTSW215	150W ACTIVE SUBWOOFER		£179.95	£149.99
YSTSW315	270W ACTIVE SUBWOOFER		£269.95	£219.99
AX396	AMPLIFIER 60 WPC		£219.95	£139.99
AX596	AMPLIFIER 100 WPC		£299.95	£219.99
KX393	TAPE DECK		£159.95	£114.99
KX580SE	TAPE DECK		£249.95	£177.99
KXW321	TWIN TAPE DECK		£199.95	£132.99
TX396L	TUNER		£129.95	£79.99
TX492RDS	TUNER WITH RDS		£149.95	£99.99

DENON DHT500SD
Award Winning Home Theatre System

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 — PRODUCT OF THE YEAR ALL-IN-ONE SYSTEMS DENON DHT-500SD

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEPTEMBER 2004 | BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO | MULTIREGION VERSION AVAILABLE | HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

- 6 x 100 watts into 6 ohms
- DTS-ES Discrete, 96/24, Neo:6, Dolby Digital + EX, Dolby Pro-Logic IIx
- PAL 625p Progressive Scan
- RGB on SCART

TMMP £449.99

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE ON THIS MODEL![2]

£419

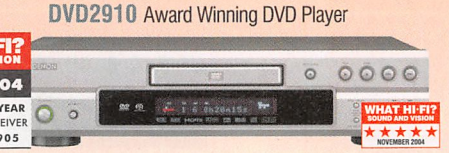
DENON AVR1905 Award Winning Home Cinema Receiver

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 — PRODUCT OF THE YEAR MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER DENON AVR-1905

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCTOBER 2004

DVD2910 Award Winning DVD Player

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 — PRODUCT OF THE YEAR MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER DENON AVR-1905



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOVEMBER 2004

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AMAZING DEALS ON ALL DENON HOME CINEMA EQUIPMENT!!

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AVR1705	6.1 CH AV RECEIVER	AWARD WINNER!!	SALE	CALL
AVR2105	6.1 CH AV RECEIVER	AWARD WINNER!!	SALE	CALL
AVR3805	8 CH AV RECEIVER	10 MTH 0%APR	SALE	CALL
AVCA1SRA	FLAGSHIP AV AMPLIFIER	10 MTH 0%APR	SALE	CALL
DVD1710	DVD PLAYER	AVAIL MULTIREGION &10 MTH 0%APR	£149.99	£119.99
DVD1910	DVD PLAYER	AVAIL MULTIREGION &10 MTH 0%APR	£249.99	£193.99
DVD3910	DVD PLAYER	AVAIL MULTIREGION &10 MTH 0%APR	SALE	CALL
DM31	SYSTEM EXC SPEAKERS	AWARD WINNER	£249.99	£199.99
DM31S	SYSTEM INC SPEAKERS	AWARD WINNER	£299.99	£249.99
DRRM31	TAPE DECK FOR DM31 SYS		£129.99	£109.99
DF101	SYSTEM EXC SPEAKERS	AWARD WINNER	£379.99	£296.99
DF101/S	SYSTEM INC SPEAKERS	AWARD WINNER	£499.99	£380.99
DRRF101	TAPE DECK FOR DF101 SYS		£149.99	£126.99
201CD	SYSTEM EXC SPEAKERS	AWARD WINNER	£649.99	£512.99
201CD/S	SYSTEM INC SPEAKERS	AWARD WINNER	£799.99	£630.99
DRR201	TAPE DECK FOR 201 SYS		£189.99	£158.99
PMA355	AMPLIFIER		£229.99	£179.99
TU260LMK2	TUNER	AWARD WINNER	£129.99	£109.99
DCD685	CD PLAYER		SALE	CALL
DRW695	TAPE DECK		£189.99	£159.99

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DENON
AVR2805 Award Winning Home Theatre Receiver

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 — BEST MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER £500-£750 Denon AVR-2805

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FULL RANGE OF DENON HOME THEATRE RECEIVERS ON DISPLAY

DENON
DM31S Award Winning Hifi System

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 — BEST HI-FI MICRO SYSTEM OVER £150 Denon D-M31

SCM51 SPEAKERS £50 EXTRA

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S-VIDEO SIGNAL FROM YOUR DIGIBOX OR DVD

Converts a RGB signal from DVD or Digibox to a high quality S video signal. Ideal for routing thru' Surround amps. or connecting to Projectors, etc.
Also available - Component to RGB converter, Digital to Analogue converters, etc.

RGB to S-Video plus Composite Converter **RGB-S £50**

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Convert a RGB scart output from DVD or Digibox to RGBVH signal (15.6kHz - 50Hz).
Use with supplied 15D-15D cable or with optional 15D-5xBNC cable.
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Scart Sync Separator CSR-2200 £49

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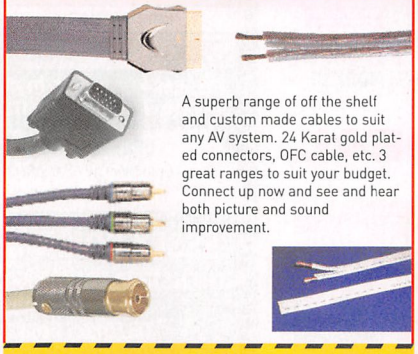
USB 2.0 plug-n-play video capture box. Cv or S video, NTSC, PAL, SECAM. Bundled with USB 2.0 DVR, Intervideo WinProducer3 software. High res. up to DVD quality.

Video to USB Adaptor USB-201 £69

EVERY CABLE YOU NEED TO CONNECT ALL YOUR AV KIT



A superb range of off the shelf and custom made cables to suit any AV system. 24 Karat gold plated connectors, OFC cable, etc. 3 great ranges to suit your budget. Connect up now and see and hear both picture and sound improvement.

Cables in any length from £5

ADD A SCART SOCKET TO YOUR PLASMA / PROJECTOR

Convert the Scart RGB output from a DVD or Digibox to high quality Component (YUV) signal. Ideal for Plasma and Projectors not fitted with scart sockets. Use with our Prolink PYUV cable for superb picture quality.

RGB to Component Converter CSY-2100 £75

UTILIZE THE PC INPUT ON YOUR PLASMA/ PROJECTOR

Turn any video signal into a high quality PC signal. Convert any S video or CV into a choice of VGA, SVGA, XGA PC image.

Video to PC Converter CM-340 £120

NTSC/PAL/SECAM TV tuner with video scaler - converts to PC VGA or HDTV component signal. Inputs for CV and S Video + PC bypass.

World Tuner - HDTV/PC Converter CSC-1205MT £249

TURN ANY PC/LCD SCREEN INTO A HIGH RESOLUTION TV

NEW

Improve picture quality on any Plasma. projector, etc. Professional Video Scaler / Deinterlacer. Supports up to SXGA PC output, 480p, 576p, 720p, 1080i HDTV output. Reverse 3:2/2:2 pulldown, Digital noise reduction, 3D comb filter, CV, SV, Component, PC in.

Scart RGB - XGA Converter Presenter 1 £129
XGA Tuner Box Presenter 2 £179

CONVERT ALL WORLD VIDEO STANDARDS NTSC - PAL - SECAM

The latest lowest cost Digital Standards Converter available in UK. Converts NTSC3.58/4.43, PAL50/60, SECAM to PAL50 or NTSC3.58. Compact, sturdy metal housing, complete with suitable DC adaptor.

Analogue from £49.95 Digital from £130

WATCH 2 PICTURES ON ONE TV SET AT THE SAME TIME

Plug in your Digibox and VCR - connect to your TV- now you've got instant picture in picture. Great for keeping an eye on what's on the other side, monitoring sports events, or for surfing channels. You can swap the sub picture and main picture with supplied remote.

Picture in Picture - Scart model PIP-1 £150
Picture in Picture - RCA model CIP-2 £129

HIGH QUALITY VIDEO & DVD BACK-UP

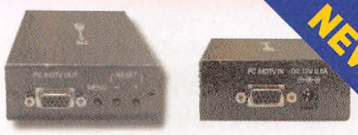
NEW

Correct unstable videos with this digital full frame synchronizer. Restore vert, horiz, syncs + colour burst. Adjust colour, brightness, contrast, sharpness. Eliminate picture jitter. Built in AGC. CV+S video in/out.

CTB-100 £199 Time Base Corrector
NEW CTB-100 G (with genlock) £249

PC/HDTV 2 WAY CONVERTER

NEW



Combining the functions of a video scaler, scan-converter, format transformer. The CP-251 is controlled via push button and OSD menu. The controls include input/output setup, picture adjustment, H/V phase adjustment, system information and many other advance features.
The resolution of PC or HDTV input can be scaled up or scaled down along with their frame rate convert to a selectable frequency. 48MB frame memory for frame rate conversion. Signal format can be converted from RBGHV to YPbPr or the other way around.
Input: PC (VGA/SVGA/XGA/SXGA) + HDTV (480i/480p/720p/1080i), FH : 60 to 85 Hz.
Output: PC (VGA/SVGA/XGA/SXGA)+HDTV (480p/576p/720p)

PC/HDTV Converter £299

HDTV PRO QUALITY AFFORDABLE VIDEO SCALER

NEW

Improve picture quality on any Plasma. projector, etc. Professional Video Scaler / Deinterlacer. Supports up to SXGA PC output, 480p, 576p, 720p, 1080i HDTV output. Reverse 3:2/2:2 pulldown, Digital noise reduction, 3D comb filter, CV, SV, Component, PC in.

Video to PC/HDTV Scaler Presenter+ £399

WATCH SKY, DVD, VIDEO - ANYWHERE ROUND YOUR HOME

Don't miss a second of that important TV programme. This portable 5"LCD screen is fitted with a rechargeable battery pack and a 2.4GHz receiver. Just plug the AV transmitter into the back of your Digibox, DVD or VCR and it will send the signal up to 50m. to the 5" screen. Take the remote control with you and you can change channels

Portable Wireless 5" LCD Receiver/Transmitter W5-LCD £199

NOT ENOUGH RGB SCART SOCKETS ON YOUR TV

2 way, 3 way , 5 way Automatic Scart control switches. The Trilogy range give perfect loss free switching of any AV signal - DVD, Digibox, SKY, Game console, etc. Trilogy 1 has additional feature of recording one signal whilst viewing another + extra outputs for Videosender + 2nd TV.

5way RGB Auto Scart Controller Trilogy 1 £99
3way RGB Auto Trilogy 2 £59
2way RGB Auto Trilogy 3 £39

UPGRADE YOUR VIDEO SIGNAL

Convert a Composite video signal to Scart RGB signal. Ideal for transferring home video movies onto new generation DVD recorders

Composite to RGB Converter Creator £79.95

CONTROL ALL YOUR HOME CINEMA KIT

Replace all your coffee table clutter with one of these Universal remotes. Easy to set up and compatible with virtually all home cinema equipment, digiboxes, vcrs, DVDs, etc.

Kameleon 4 in one £49.95
Kameleon 6 in one £69.95
URC1600 16 in one £99

TWO EQUAL RGB SCART OUTPUTS

2 equal Scart outputs from any source. Ideal for connecting the output of any DVD or Digibox when you need to retain an equal signal and feed to 2 different monitors or make 2 video copies. RGB, S video, CV compatible. Complete with DC PS unit.

Active 2 way Scart Amplifier SC-AMP2 £39.95

CHANGE ANY AUDIO-VIDEO SIGNAL TO RF

Converts any AV signal from DVD, Camcorder, etc. to a user selected RF signal. Microprocessor control ensures no interference with other channels. Ideal for TVs without scart socket. Supplied with scart adaptor, AV cables plus dc adaptor.

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Turntables

Turntables still offer fantastic sound quality and awesome value-for-money

BUDGET Up to £14000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	SPEEDS: 33 1/3 rpm	45 rpm	78 rpm	Elec spd change	Man. operation	Auto operation	Semi-auto op.	Tonearm incl.	Cartridge incl.	Belt drive	Direct drive	Suspension	Finishes
Audio Note TT1/Arm One/IQ1	900	11.01/ST	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Affordable, well built and sounds great.	●	●			●			●	●	●		●	Bk
Audio Note TT2+Arm 2+I/O1	2800	08.01/FT	★★★★☆	You'll need the £2499 transformer, but you'll be rewarded with superb sound.	●	●			●			●	●	●		●	Bk
Audio Note TT2+Arm 2+IQ3	1600	05.03/GT	★★★★☆	Well engineered, versatile deck that works with any recording - but fails to excite.	●	●			●			●	●	●		●	Bk
Avid Acutus	6000	10.99/FT	★★★★★	This steel wheel cruises effortlessly through everything from jazz to rock.	●	●			●					●		●	2
Avid Diva package	1748	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Beautifully built and delivers composed, informative sound.	●	●		●	●			●	●	●		●	Bk
Avid Volvere	2000	08.01	★★★★☆	Tested with SME V arm/Dynavector D17 D2 II cartridge. Deserves your attention.	●	●			●					●		●	Sl
Bush MTT1	50	02.96/FT	★★★★★	Build quality is lacking but the mini-sized bush manages to astound sonically.	●	●					●	●		●			Bk
Clearaudio Champion L1	1365	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Combines stunning aesthetics with great sound - well worth an audition.	●	●			●			●	●	●			Acr
Clearaudio Emotion package	655	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Turntable Product of the Year in Awards 2004. Excites and soothes equally.	●	●			●			●	●	●			Ac

Clearaudio Emotion package

Our Turntable Product of the Year is truly a deck that deserves respect. Tested with the very capable Satisfy tonearm and Aurum Classics Wood cartridge, it's gorgeous to look at and feel - and it sounds even better. If you can live with the manual belt change, you'll have hours of musical pleasure to look forward to.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
TURNTABLE
CLEARAUDIO EMOTION

Clearaudio Evolution/Tangent	3185	05.00/FT	★★★★☆	Fashioned from transparent acrylic - supremely clear and crisp performance.	●					●		●	●	●			Acr
Clearaudio Master	3640	08.01	★★★★★	For those who have the money and the desire this is one of the very best.	●	●			●			●	●	●			Acr
Clearaudio Solution	1085	06.99	★★★☆☆	Distinctive looks with frosted acrylic platter, but its rivals highlight its weaknesses.	●				●					●			Acr
Goldring GR1/Elektra	140	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Lively, forward and engaging sound but doesn't feel as sturdy as some.	●	●			●			●	●	●			Bk
Linn Sondek LP12	1400	07.93	★★★★☆	Entry-level legend sounds extraordinarily persuasive, and is easily upgraded.	●			●	●					●		●	5
Linn Sondek LP12/Lingo	2300	Awd.94	★★★★★	Best turntable in Awards 1994 - has a warmth and faithfulness few can match.	●	●		●	●					●		●	5
Michell Gyrodec	1126	02.94	★★★★☆	An eye-catcher which performs at a level that is hard to beat at the price.	●	●			●			●		●		●	Sl
Michell Gyrodec SE	895	05.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Class-leading, few rivals get near its style or sound.	●	●			●					●		●	Sl
Michell Orbe SE	1916	06.01/GT	★★★★★	Big on bass, the Orbe combines striking looks with absolutely stunning sound.	●	●			●					●		●	Bk
Michell TecnoDec+HR pow sup	874	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Sounds wonderfully musical and impressively revealing, and is simple to set up.	●	●			●					●			Bk
Michell TecnoDec/Rega RB250	700	07.04/GT	★★★★☆	Without the HR power supply the TecnoDec becomes a more compelling buy.	●	●		●	●			●		●			Bk
NAD 533/Goldring Elektra	220	04.01/GT	★★★★☆	Solid piece of kit and fine value for money but can't offer the thrills others deliver.	●	●		●	●			●	●	●			Gr
Nottingham Analog Anna Log	6451	08.97	★★★★★	30kg of cast iron and 17th-century timber - possibly the best turntable available.	●	●			●					●			Wd
Nottingham Analog Interspace	587	06.96	★★★★★	Remarkable musicality and low cost (at least in high-end terms) make it a bargain.	●	●			●					●			Bk
Origin Live Aurora	960	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Tough setup, but a stellar performer with a wonderfully realistic presentation.	●	●		●	●					●			2
Origin Live Aurora Gold	1470	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	A great value deck that delivers a strong performance at a competitive price.	●	●		●	●					●		●	2
Origin Live Ultra Kit+OL/OEM	754	11.01/ST	★★★★★	Once assembled it sounds fantastic - a thoroughly purist deck in all respects.	●	●		●	●			●		●			2
Pro-ject 1 Xpression	210	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Great-value deck and sounds remarkable.	●	●			●			●	●	●			Gry
Pro-ject Debut II/Ortofon OM5E	135	08.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Sounds tight and enjoyable, a great first buy.	●	●			●			●	●	●			9
Pro-ject Debut III/Ortofon OM5E	130	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Best turntable under £250 in Awards 2004. Incredible value.	●	●			●			●	●	●			9
Pro-ject Debut Phono SB	170	10.02	★★★★★	Terrific, at this price point there's no contenders - has a phono stage built-in.	●	●		●	●			●	●	●			2
Pro-ject Perspective	750	07.04/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive, but it doesn't quite match the performance of the very best.	●	●		●	●			●		●		●	Ac
Pro-ject RPM 4/Orto 510 Mk2	350	08.02/GT	★★★★☆	Very grown-up - conveys that lovely organic feel you get from great vinyl playback.	●	●			●			●	●	●			Bk
Pro-ject RPM 6 SB	500	12.03/FT	★★★★☆	An added speed box to the RPM 6 SB results in a fine-sounding, user-friendly deck.	●	●		●	●			●		●			Bk
Pro-ject RPM6	500	08.02/GT	★★★★☆	Great, but add a cartridge and it's expensive - music has excellent power.	●	●			●			●		●			Wt
Pro-ject RPM9X	1000	04.04/FT	★★★★☆	Very good and if you enjoy a big, bold performance, it's really exceptional.	●	●			●			●		●			2
Rega P2	247	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Impressive performer that sounds rather more expensive than actually it is.	●	●			●			●		●			Bk
Rega P3	298	08.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2001. The finesse of decks that cost twice as much.	●	●			●			●		●			8
Reson Rota 1/Reson Reta/Etile	3100	05.00/FT	★★★★★	Terrific if you buy for your ears rather than your eyes - precise and punchy.	●				●			●	●	●			Ac
Roksan Radius 5 (wood)	750	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Solid performer that hardly puts a foot wrong. Deserves to be on the audition list.	●	●			●			●		●			3
Roksan Radius V/Nima arm	850	07.04/GT	★★★★★	An excellent deck - even more talented than the wood version we tested last year.	●	●			●			●		●		●	Ac
Roksan Xerxes X	1100	06.01	★★★★★	Great all-rounder, will please rockers and classical buffs with a fatigue-free listen.	●	●		●	●					●			2
Roksan Xerxes X (+DSU 1.5)	2000	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Stunning combination of resolution, build, dynamics and timing - still brilliant.	●	●		●	●			●	●	●			2
SME Model 20/2A	4713	09.96	★★★★☆	The precision makes it worth seeking out, but rockers may be tempted elsewhere.	●	●	●	●	●					●		●	Bk
SOTA Comet Sup/RB300/Platin	650	11.01/ST	★★★☆☆	Offers an attractive sonic performance, but finish and cosmetics are below par.	●	●			●			●	●	●		●	Bk
SOTA Millennia	4750	05.00/FT	★★★★☆	Fabulous-sounding deck that brings out the magic of any LP collection.	●	●		●	●					●		●	Bk
Sound By Design Quasar LE/CG	3990	08.97	★★★★☆	An unusual approach to turntable design, but one which works really well.	●	●			●					●		●	Go
Technics SL1210 MK5G	550	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Solid, dependable DJ deck, but it can't keep up in the world of sound per pound.	●	●		●	●			●	●		●		Gy
VPI HW-19 Junior	550	03.98/GT	★★★★★	A truly involving listen and peerless at this price. Includes a Rega RB300 arm.	●	●			●			●		●			Bk
Wilson Benesch The Full Circle	1995	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Best turntable over £1000 in Awards 2004. A sound that digs up plenty of detail.	●	●			●			●	●	●			

Tuners

Take your pick from digital, analogue or hybrid tuners

BUDGET Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	BANDS: DAB	FM	MW	LW	SW	Presets	Auto tune	RDS	Remote	Finishes
Acoustic Solutions Portal 2 (port)	80	08.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Looks pretty but the sound is only average.		●				6				Sl
Acoustic Solutions SP111	100	02.04/FT	★★★★☆	Good value combination tuner. Worth spending more for better performance.	●	●				4	●	●	●	Sl

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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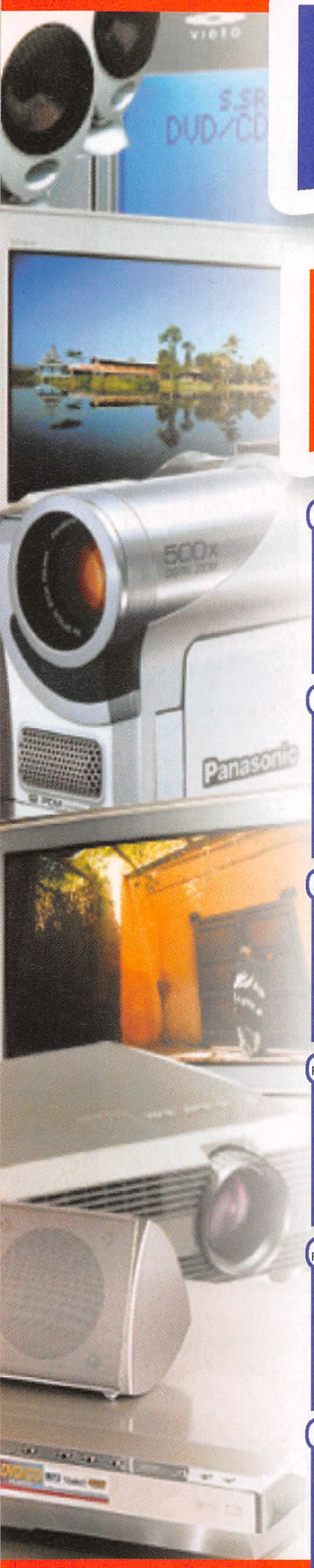

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SONY KDLL32MRX1	HITACHI 32PD5200	PANASONIC TH37PE30	SONY KDEP42X51	HITACHI 42PD5200
PANASONIC TH42PE30	SONY KDEP42MRX1	PIONEER PDP435	PANASONIC TH50PE30	PIONEER PDP505
PANASONIC PTAE500	SONY VPLH53	PIONEER VSXD814	DENON AVR2805	YAMAHA DSPAX750
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Tuners continued...

Take your pick from digital, analogue or hybrid tuners

BUDGET Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	BANDS DAB	FM	MW	LW	SW	Presets	Auto tune	RDS	Remote	Finishes
Aiwa CR-LA60 (handheld)	22	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Small, with good reception, and produces a performance with decent levels of detail.		●	●			0				Sl
Alba TRDAB2820 (portable)	50	02.05/GT	★★★★☆	Cracking build quality coupled with good connectivity and sound.	●	●				10	●			Wt
Arcam DiVA DT81	650	09.01	★★★☆☆	Logical choice if you have a DiVA or FMJ system but there are very strong rivals around.	●					16	●			2
Arcam DiVA T61	230	10.02/FT	★★★★☆	Fine tuner with a smooth and generous sound. But it faces tough competition.		●	●			30	●	●		2
Aria A-2000 (portable)	100	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	A decent radio that scores well for its connections, style and simplicity of use.	●	●				6	●	●	●	2
Boston Recepter Radio (portable)	130	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	A high-quality clock radio which delivers surprising bass depth, well worth an audition.		●	●			20				3
Bush DABCR2003 (portable)	70	01.04/GT	★★★★★	Bargain if you like to fall asleep to - and be woken by digital-only radio stations.	●					10	●			Sl
Bush PSDAB2003 (handheld)	100	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Cheap and decent personal with sporting appeal, but it can't match the best..	●					10				Blu
Bush TR2003DAB (portable)	100	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	A uniquely-styled radio which produces the goods sonically - we love the looks.	●	●				10	●			Sl
Cambridge Audio Azur 640T	200	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Decent piece of kit to top off the Azur range - just not the best at this price.	●	●				10	●	●	●	2
Cambridge Audio DAB300	120	05.03/FT	★★★★★	No-nonsense digital tuner that's both a fine performer and a great-value buy.	●					10	●			2
Cambridge Audio DAB500	150	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Fine sound quality with good bass and crisp treble.	●					10	●		●	2
Cambridge Audio T500	180	10.98	★★★★☆	Looks simple but sounds superb, top value. Worthy of serious consideration.		●	●	●		67	●			2
Creek T50	499	03.04/FT	★★★★☆	Fine-sounding FM tuner, but hardly a bargain. Best with a sizeable external aerial.		●	●	●		64	●	●		Sl
Cymbol Electronics C-DAB1	1199	02.00	★★★★☆	Digital tuner that shines with classical concerts, thanks to its revealing sound.	●					8	●			Sl
Cyrus FM X	500	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	One for the FM radio purist. Capable of superb sound, but could be too basic for some.		●				29	●			Bk
Denon TU-260L MK II	130	04.00	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Good value for money and makes a fine upgrade		●	●	●		40	●	●		Bk
Densen Beat B-800	850	04.04/FT	★★★★★	Best analogue tuner in Awards 2004. This no-frills Danish tuner sounds superlative.		●				99				2
Goodmans GSR80DAB	89	01.04	★★☆☆☆	Unique styling at a tempting price, but its performance is very lacklustre indeed.	●	●				10	●			Sl
Intempo PG-01 (portable)	90	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	Good for the money with stereo sound, but it's not quite the best value around.	●	●				4	●			Wd
Linn Pekin	650	10.01	★★★★★	The laidback sound is easy on the ear, but detail and dynamics remain plentiful.		●	●			80	●		●	Bk
Matsui DA-1	60	02.05/FT	★★★★☆	Cost-effective, painless and useful - could be the perfect DAB tuner for many.	●					10	●		●	Sl
MOS DR011 (handheld)	150	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	Stylish handheld unit that plays music pretty persuasively and is involving with speech.	●					10	●			Sl
NAD C422	180	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Works well enough and sounds good for the money, but it's not a product to inspire lust.		●	●			30		●	●	2
Naim NAT05	785	10.01	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. The NAT05 proves radio still has the power to amaze.		●				99	●			Bk
Panasonic RF-B55 (portable)	119	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Worldband tuner promises plenty, but doesn't satisfy. Frustratingly dull look and feel.		●	●	●	●	54	●			Bk
Perstel BlueNote (handheld)	100	01.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Very small, and looks impressive at first, but seems less so once you've used it.	●					0	●			Bk
Philips DA1000 (handheld)	150	07.04/GT	★★★★★	A tidy and compact personal DAB tuner with a very good level of performance.	●	●				20				Sl
Pure Digital DRX-701ES	225	10.02/FT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. A quality home tuner for digital radio.	●					99	●		●	2
Pure Digital DRX-702ES	330	07.03/FT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Delivers digital and analogue in style.	●	●	●			99	●		●	2
Pure Digital Elan (portable)	80	02.05/GT	★★☆☆☆	Sound lacks weight and punch and it feels cheap - a major disappointment.	●	●				16	●			Al
Pure Digital Evoke-1 XT (port.)	99	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Best portable radio in Awards 2004. Great value.	●					9	●			Wd
Pure Digital Evoke-1 (portable)	89	02.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2003. Sounds good in mono and can be upgraded to stereo.	●					9	●			Wd
Pure Digital Evoke-2 (portable)	149	01.04/GT	★★★★★	The stereo version of the Evoke-1 makes a fine buy, being flexible and sweet-sounding.	●	●				12	●			Wd
Pure Digital Pocket DAB1000	129	01.04/GT	★★★★★	This go-anywhere personal companion has the sound quality to live up to its style.	●					10	●			Sl
Pure Digital Tempus-1 (port.)	99	01.04/GT	★★★★☆	An Evoke-1 with a touch sensitive snooze handle for improved bedside manner.	●					10	●			Wd
Pure Digital The Bug (portable)	150	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Not class-leading sound but its ability to pause and rewind radio is tempting.	●					6	●			2
Red DB7 DAB (portable)	50	02.05/GT	★★★★★	Exclusive to Sainsburys, small, inexpensive and sounds great.	●	●				10	●			Bk
Roberts Gemini 6 (portable)	180	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Solid-sounding and easy to use with a well-designed remote: will grace any household.	●	●				10	●	●	●	Wd
Roberts Gemini 8 (portable)	140	02.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Handy features but it's cheap to the touch, and cost too much.	●	●				5	●	●		Bwn
Roberts R9965 (portable)	80	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Delivers a deep, sturdy performance in keeping with its quirky bomb-proof design.		●	●	●		0				Gry
Roberts R9988 (handheld)	50	07.04/FT	★★★★★	No-nonsense portable analogue radio that offers supreme performance for the cash.		●	●	●		0				Gry
Roberts RD-4 (handheld)	160	06.04/FT	★★★★☆	Bulkier than some of the competition, but it's a superb performer nevertheless.	●					10				Sl
Sony ICF-M410L (portable)	50	07.04/FT	★★★★★	A no-nonsense radio, ideal for the bedroom, featuring great sound and style.		●	●	●		20				Sl
Sony ICF-SW100e	180	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Classy and unusual worldband tuner which packs a lot into a neat leather carrying case.		●	●	●	●	50	●			Bk
Sony SRF-M10 (handheld)	65	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Ultra-small and stylish with some handy facilities, but sonically it fails to deliver.		●				0				Sl
Sony SRF-MQ11 (handheld)	60	06.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	A radio built into headphones - decent reception and sound but tiring on the ears.		●				0				Sl
Sony ST-D777ES	699	02.01	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Best of all worlds: DAB, FM, MW, LW and presets galore.	●	●	●	●		99	●	●	●	Go
Sony ST-SDB900	250	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Tuner Product of the Year in Awards 2004. Excellent hybrid digital/analogue tuner.	●	●	●			129	●	●	●	Sl

Sony ST-SDB900

Tuner Product of the Year in Awards 2004. In the realm of radio we've never had it so good, thanks to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) and the multitude of channels on offer. The Sony ST-SDB900 is a great performer for the money, and definitely the pick of the current crop of DAB tuners at, and around, this price.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
TUNER
SONY ST-SDB900

T+A T1210R	900	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Solid performer but it's FM-only which limits its appeal.		●						●		2
TAG McLaren Audio T32R	2290	06.00	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. A highly enjoyable, state-of-the-art digital radio.	●	●	●	●		99	●	●		Sl
TEAC T-1D	200	06.03/FT	★★★★☆	Looks good with the C-1D and the A-1D amp, but less exciting than we'd hoped.		●	●			30	●	●		Sl
TEAC T-H300DAB	220	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Fine match for TEAC's Reference Series, though the sound quality isn't special.	●	●	●			30	●	●	●	Sl
Tivoli iPAL	139	02.05/GT	★★★★★	Plug your iPod into this new version of the Award-winning radio for great sound.		●	●			0				Wt
Tivoli Model 3	200	02.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Analogue clock radio - it looks gorgeous and sounds good, but at £200 it's expensive.		●	●			0				Wd
Tivoli Model One	100	07.04/FT	★★★★★	It may only be mono, but this is a lovely little radio that looks and sounds great.		●	●			0				5

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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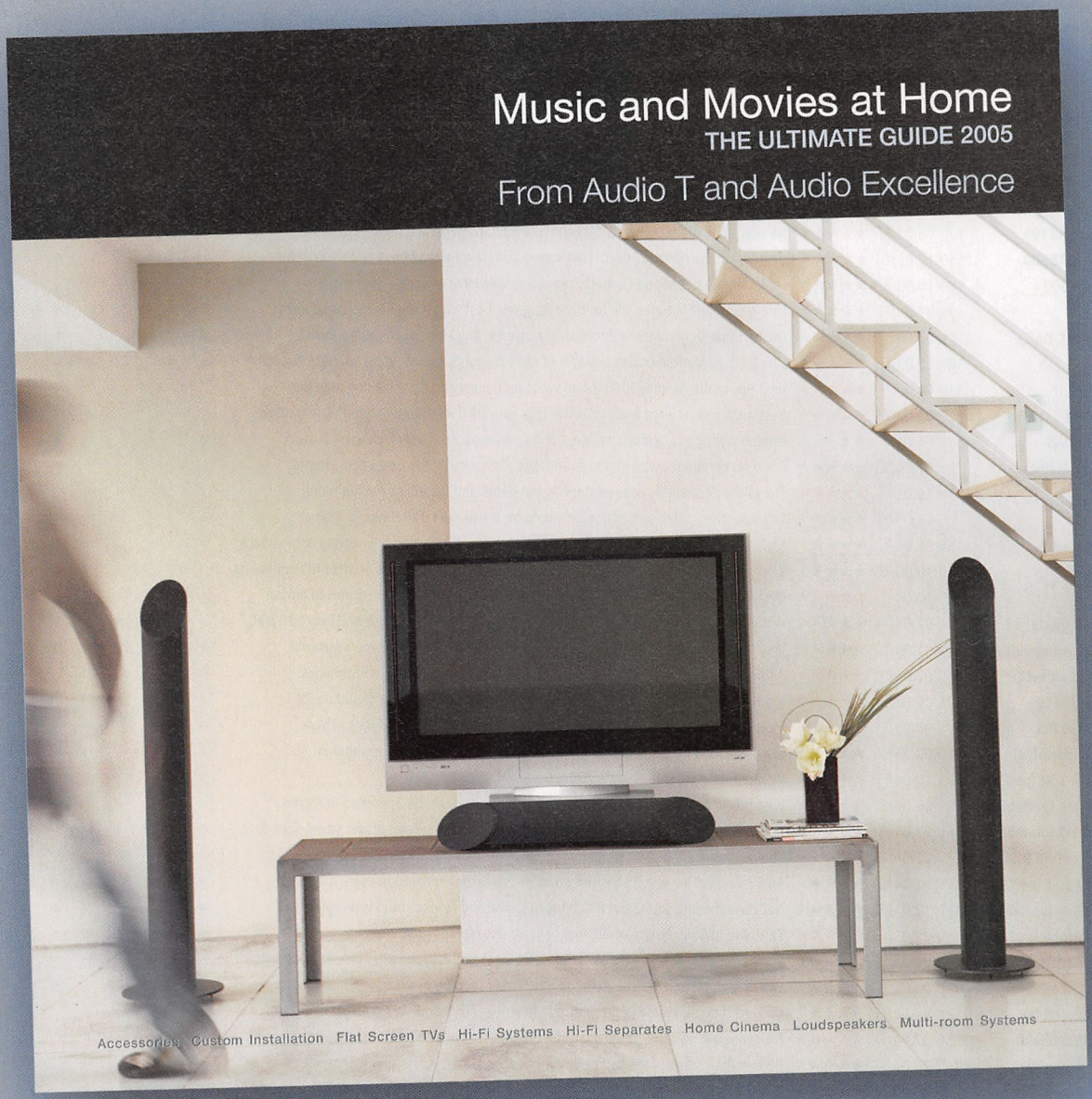

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Tuners continued...

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BUDGET Up to £2500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	BANDS DAB	FM	MW	LW	SW	Presets	Auto tune	RDS	Remote	Finishes
Tivoli PAL (portable)	130	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Excellent performance from this sexy portable radio.		●	●			0				8
Xfm Digital Radio (portable)	130	02.05/GT	★★★★½	Great styling, sound and plenty of useful features - just a bit pricey.	●	●				10	●			Wt
Yamaha TX-396L	130	10.00	★★★½☆	Inoffensive if somewhat bland sound - will fit into a wide range of systems with ease.		●	●	●		40	●			Bk
Yamaha TX-492RDS	150	04.98	★★★½☆	Good facilities and performance at a sensible price but not truly outstanding.		●	●			40	●	●		Bk

Integrated amplifiers/receivers

One-box powerhouses to drive your speakers – with or without tuners

BUDGET Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Int amp	Receiver	Power out (w)	Line level in	MM phono	MC phono	Tape loops	Preamp out	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote	Finishes
Acoustic Solutions SP101	80	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	If your budget is really tight this product would be a good first step.	●		35	5	●		1	●	1	●	●		Sl
Arcam DiVA A65 Plus	390	07.03/ST	★★★★☆	Still a fine buy, just doesn't dominate the budget market any more.	●		40	4	●		1	●	1	●	●	●	Sl
Audio Analogue Primo Settanta	475	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Tidy amp that just lacks the cutting-edge ability of the best at this price.	●		70	5			1		1			●	Sl
Cambridge Audio A1 Mk3 SE	120	07.99/ST	★★★★☆	Great build and well-balanced, but you can get better for little more.	●		30	4			1		1	●			Bk
Cambridge Audio A5	120	07.01/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Rich, powerful with weight and insight.	●		60	5			1		1	●			2
Cambridge Audio Azur 540A	200	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Ideal building-block on which to build a fantastic budget system.	●		50	5			2		2	●	●	●	2
Cambridge Audio Azur 640A	250	06.04/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo amplifier under £250 in Awards 2004. Fine dynamics.	●		65	5			2		2	●	●	●	2
Denon DRA-455	200	08.01/FT	★★★★★	Good value and it sounds great. Even the phono stage is acceptable.		●	52	2	●		1		2	●	●	●	Bk
Denon PMA-255UK	140	02.02/GT	★★★★☆	Exciting amp for your money - care is needed with system matching.	●		30	4			1		1	●	●		Bk
Denon PMA-355UK	230	12.02/GT	★★★½☆	Had a good run but has met its match with the sub £300 amps now.	●		50	3			2		2	●	●	●	Bk
Marantz PM4400OSE	250	Awd.03	★★★½☆	Decent performance, for those in search of a calming experience.	●		30	3	●		2		2	●	●	●	2
Marantz PM7200	330	06.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. The Marantz is still a strong contender.	●		95	4	●		2	●	2	●	●	●	2
Myryad Z140	500	05.03/ST	★★★★☆	The Z140 will appeal to vinyl-lovers, but it needs punchy partnering kit.	●		50	4	●		2		1		●	●	2
NAD C320BEE	220	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2002. High-quality, big sounding amp.	●		50	5			2	●	1	●	●	●	2
NAD C352CT	350	06.04/FT	★★★★★	Stereo amplifier Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	●		80	5			2	●	1	●	●	●	2

NAD C352CT

We first tested this amplifier in its original C352 guise and weren't very impressed with the lack of coherence and grip to the bass. NAD reworked the amp's bottom end for the C352CT, creating this year's stereo amplifier Product of the Year. It's stunning value, with a majestic sound you have no right to for this kind of money.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
STEREO AMPLIFIER
NAD C352CT

Pioneer A-209R	150	04.02/ST	★★★☆☆	Solid-enough for the money, but rivals offer more for a similar price.	●		35	3	●		2		2	●	●	●	Bk
Pioneer A-307R	180	12.99/ST	★★★☆☆	The Pioneer's full-on sound lacks subtlety and can be fatiguing.	●		45	3	●		2		2	●	●	●	Bk
Primare A-10	500	05.03/ST	★★★☆☆	Consistently competent but never spectacular - look elsewhere for thrills.	●		50	5			1	●	1			●	Bk
Rega Brio	328	06.04/GT	★★★★☆	Not an amplifier for everyone, but in the right circumstances it'll shine.	●		38	3	●		1		1				2
Rotel RA-01	250	06.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Good, but newer rivals are more refined.	●		40	4	●		1	●	2	●	●		Sl
Rotel RA-02	380	09.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Cracking amp, powerful and vibrant sound.	●		40	4	●		1	●	2	●	●	●	2
Sony TA-FB940R	350	12.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2000 - natural, attention-grabbing sound.	●		60	3	●		2		2	●	●	●	2
TEAC A-ID	280	06.03/FT	★★★★☆	Makes sense when viewed as a companion for the C-1D CD player.	●		50	5	●		2		1	●	●	●	Sl
Yamaha AX-396	220	07.00/FT	★★★☆☆	Has all the right credentials, but it's rather anonymous and unexciting.	●		60	3	●		2		2	●	●	●	Bl
Yamaha AX-596	300	12.00/GT	★★★☆☆	Bold performance but trades treble detail for a smooth delivery.	●		100	3	●		2		2	●	●	●	Bl

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★½☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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KEF Reference Series THX AV Package

1/2 PRICE

2x TDM23F 175w THX Fronts including THX Stands, 2x Model 65DS 100w Reference Dipole Rears, 1x TDM23C 175w THX Centre & 1x TDM45B 300w THX Subwoofer Bstock • Deluxe Black Finish

"The speakers in this KEF package comply with the strict performance guidelines laid down by LucasFilm THX. They are proper 3-way units, with a single 19mm soft dome tweeter, a pair of 80mm mid units, and two 150x225 bass drivers each in discrete enclosures within the cabinet. The 300w internal amp and 15 inch driver of the TDM45B active sub promises plenty of low end reinforcement. The KEF Reference THX speaker package is one of the best we've heard, at any price, and sounds as good as that found in a real cinema." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 99**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 99

Matching Rear Stands 1/2 Price

£1299.99

save £1700

~~WAS £2999.99~~

1/2 PRICE WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ KEF & THX AV SPEAKER DEALS

KEF THX Speaker Stand

1/10 PRICE

"Superb quality speaker stands to match the TDM23 or many other speakers. Sand fillable".**What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb99**
B stock

save £180

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 99

£19.99

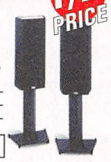
~~WAS £199.99~~

KEF Reference THX TDM23F

save £200

1/2 PRICE

"These front or rear speakers comply with the strict performance guidelines laid down by LucasFilm THX. They are one of the best we've heard, and sound as good as those found in a real cinema." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 99**
200watt 5-way Speaker System
715x316x180mm • Deluxe Black Finish
Bstock



WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 99

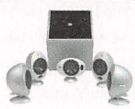
£199.99

Also TDM23C Centre **£299.99**
65DS Dipole **£299.99**

~~WAS £399.99~~

KEF KHT2005

1/2 PRICE



save £500

"Product of the Year in the WHAT HI*FI? Awards. Best sub/sat you can buy under £1000." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 01**
Superb 6 Speaker AV Package • 5x 100 Watt Satellite Speakers
Plus 150 Watt Power Sub • Superb Quality Finish • NoMO

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUN 01

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Ex Display Model

Also KHT 3005 with 300 watt Subwoofer Was £1200 Save £500 **Only £799.99**

~~WAS £799.99~~

KEF Reference THX TDM45B

1/2 PRICE

save £500

"The 300w internal amp and 15 inch driver of the TDM45B active sub promises plenty of low end reinforcement. The KEF Reference THX subwoofer is one of the best we've heard, at any price." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 99**
455x455x567mm • Deluxe Black Ash Finish Bstock

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 99

£299.99

~~WAS £799.99~~

1/3 PRICE CELESTION C STYLE SERIES AV PACKAGE MEGA DEAL!

Celestion C Style Series AV Package

save £1000

1/3 PRICE

2x C1 100w Fronts, 2x C1 100w Rears, 1x C4c 150w Centre & 1x C6s 100w RMS Subwoofer Bstock.

"Alan Rayner of Home Cinema Choice finds that all too rare combination of style and performance in this impressive series of home theatre speakers from Celestion. The C1's do sound very good, while C4c has a monopod foot to raise and lower the angle of the centre speaker relative to those listening, the C5r rears are tiny and look like they just couldn't perform – but they do, and the subwoofer is gorgeous, and dead clever with it. The shape is a triangle perfectly proportioned to the rest of the speakers and will shake your home at near subsonic levels." **HOME CINEMA CHOICE ***** Best Buy**
Deluxe Video Grey Finish

Also C Style+ with C5r **£599**

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

~~WAS £1499.99~~

£499.99

1/10 PRICE ★★★★★ BEST BUY HOME CINEMA AV SPEAKERS

Kef Cresta Centre

1/10 PRICE

save £90

"The Cresta C is a perfectly timbre-matched entry level centre speaker. Twin 100mm bass & 25mm Ferro fluid-cooled tweeter". **KEF Audio Oct99**
Freq Res 60Hz-20kHz • Mag Shielded
75watt • 90db Sensitivity • Black Finish
B Stock

£9.99

~~WAS £99.99~~

Celestion C1 Front Speakers

1/3 PRICE

"The sides of the C1's are actually coated aluminium extrusions, massively assisting rigidity and they do sound very good. They are triangle shaped with elegant style." **HOME CINEMA CHOICE ***** Best Buy**
Deluxe Video Grey Finish • Bstk

save £200

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

£99.99

~~WAS £299.99~~

Celestion C4c CentreSpeaker

1/3 PRICE

"The C4c has a monopod foot to raise and lower the angle of the centre speaker relative to those listening. It is triangle shaped with perfect proportions." **HOME CINEMA CHOICE ***** Best Buy**
Deluxe Video Grey Finish • Bstk

save £200

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

£99.99

~~WAS £299.99~~

Celestion C5r Rear Dipoles

1/2 PRICE

"The C5r dipole rears are tiny and look like they just couldn't perform – but they do. They are small and wedgy so will look very good on your wall." **HOME CINEMA CHOICE ***** Best Buy**
Deluxe Video Grey Finish • Bstk

save £150

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

£149.99

~~WAS £299.99~~

Celestion C6s Subwoofer

1/3 PRICE

"The C6s subwoofer is gorgeous, and dead clever with it. It is triangle shaped and is fitted with a 12 inch subwoofer driver that will shake your home at near subsonic levels. Bstk
HOME CINEMA CHOICE *** Best Buy**
100 Watts RMS • Frequency & Gain Controls • Deluxe Video Grey Finish

save £400

HOME CINEMA BEST BUY

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"Exceptional performance for the £139 price, especially via component-video connection; good looks and build. Best Buy Awards 2003."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul03
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RG Bstock • Scart • Co-ax + Optical Digital Out Bstock

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 03

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£39.99

~~WAS £139.99~~

YAMAHA DSP-E800

1/5 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 01

~~WAS £309.99~~

"Yamaha offers an ideal AV upgrade solution. Superb surround decoding and processing; terrific sound; totally flexible specification. Hi-fi buffs with a yen for home cinema, buy one now!"
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Subwoofer Out • Bstock • Remote

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Mission 781 AV Package

1/4 PRICE

~~WAS £999.99~~

2x 781 175Watt Fronts "The 781s are terrific speakers and deserve to be on any shortlist." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01

2x 780 150Watt Surrounds "THE DOUBLE AWARD-winning 780 speakers are crammed with clever features – and sound very good indeed." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ DEC 02

Also Real Rosewood Veneer **£349**

1x Cel CSC 75 Watt Matching Centre Speaker
Superb Sound Combination • Full Magnetic Shielding • Deluxe Black Ash Real Wood Veneer Main & rears

save £750

£249.99 Ex Display Model

1/4 PRICE ★★★★★ WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION SPEAKER DEALS

Mission 780

1/3 PRICE

WERE ~~£299.99~~

"THE DOUBLE AWARD-winning 780 speakers are crammed with clever features – and the Missions sound very good indeed. Bass is tight and powerful, midrange is even more impressive, and the 780s deliverer vocals in a wholly convincing manner. These are terrific speakers". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Dec 02**

Also Beech or Rosewood **£149**

150 Watts • 87db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms • Biwirable
Deluxe Real Wood • Black Ash Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ DEC 02

save £200

£99.99 Ex display model

Mission 781

1/3 PRICE

WERE ~~£499.99~~

"They produce a sound of grand scale and dynamics, as well as a truly seismic bass response, resulting in a performance that's big, bold and powerful. The integration between the 25mm silk dome tweeter and the 165mm Keraform mid/bass driver is excellent. The sheer scale of the sound is amazing – without sacrificing any subtle details." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan 01**

175watts Power Handling • 2 way 165mm • Keraform Mid/Bass Driver Plus 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter • Biwirable • Sensitivity 88db 8 Ohms • 350x310x210mm • Deluxe Black Ash Real Wood Veneer

Also Real Rosewood Veneer **£169**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01

save £370

£129.99 Ex display model

Mission 782

WERE ~~£699.99~~ 1/4 PRICE

"With vocals, rarely have speakers under £1000 sounded so natural and transparent. If the rest of the 78 range is even half as good as the 782s, we can't wait to get our hands on them. The 782s are terrific speakers and deserve to be on any shortlist". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 02**

200 Watts • 89db Sensitivity
8 Ohms • Biwirable • Deluxe Real Wood Black Ash Veneer

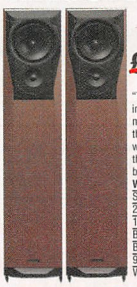
Also Real Rosewood Veneer **£299**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 02

save £530

£169.99 Ex display model

Mission 783



WERE ~~£999.99~~ 1/3 PRICE

"There's loads of technology packed into the 783s' elegant form. But it's musical performance that counts, and in this respect the 783s hit the spot: they will take all that the amp can throw at them, the result being chest-thumping bass with impressive power.". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jul 01**

Superb Quality Floorstanding Speakers
200watts Power Handling • 3 way • 165mm Keraform Mid Driver, 200mm Base • Plus 25mm Silk Dome Tweeter
Biwirable • Sensitivity 90db • 6 Ohms
970x320x210mm • Deluxe Black Real Wood Veneer

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 01

save £700

£299.99 Ex display model

Mission 780 AV Package

1/4 PRICE

2x 780 150watt Front Speakers " a performance that's big, bold and powerful. The sheer scale of the sound is amazing – without sacrificing any subtle details." **What Hi-Fi? Sound & Vision**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01

save £600

2x 780 150watt Rear Speakers " Best Buy WHAT HI*FI? Awards – Superb all-rounders absolutely fantastic budget speakers."**What Hi-Fi? Sound & Vision**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01

Also Real Beech or Rosewood Veneer **£299**

1x Cel CSC 75watt Centre Speaker • Superb Sound Combination • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

~~WAS £799.99~~

£199.99 Ex display model

Mission M7c1

save £60

1/5 PRICE

Fully Shielded centre channel speaker • 75watt Handling • Black Finish
6 Ohms

~~WAS £99.99~~

£19.99

Mission 78c

1/3 PRICE

"The Mission 78c is a high definition centre speaker in an elegant package." **Mission May 04**

200watt Output • Twin 130mm Keraform Drivers • Triple array 25mm Tweeter • Magnetically Shielded • 8 Ohms
Superb Real Black Ash Veneer

~~WAS £349.99~~

save £250

£99.99 Ex display model

Mission 78ds

1/3 PRICE

"The Mission 78ds offers a high definition bipolar surround speaker in an elegant package." **Mission May 04**

100watt Output • Twin Keraform Bass/Mid Drivers
Twin 25mm Silk Dome Tweeters • Superb Real Beech Veneer

~~WAS £349.99~~

save £250

£99.99 Ex display model

Mission 78as

1/4 PRICE

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ AUG 03

"The 78as subwoofer provides a solid low foundation for both films and music." Mission Sep 03 " The low-frequency reinforcement in the Mission 78se series system is taken care of by the 78as active sub, which uses two 200mm drive units fed with a hefty 250w internal amplifier." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 03**

2 way Reflex Enclosure • Freq Res 32Hz-150Hz • 29Litres Volume • 250watts Amplifier • 615x340x280mm • Deluxe Black Ash or Rosewood Real Wood Veneer

~~WAS £699.99~~

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Sony DAV-SA30

1/5 PRICE

"Best Buy in the WHAT HI*FI? Awards. Home cinema doesn't come much more convenient than this slim unit from Sony, comprising a DVD player, built in Dolby Digital and DTS decoding and a tuner. Stunning plug and play package."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Oct 03
6 Channel Output • 5x30Watt Satellites Plus • Subwoofer • DVD/CD/VCD Playback Dolby Digital • AM/FM 30 Preset Tuner • Full Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ OCT 03

Also
DAV-SB100 **£99.99**
DAV-SC5 **£129.99**
DAV-D150G **£149.99**
DAV-SC6 **£199.99**
DAV-SC8 **£229.99**

save £320

£79.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £399.99~~

SONY CDP-XE270

1/2 PRICE

Compact Disc • Optical Digital Out • CDR/RW Playback • Jog Dial

save £50

£39.99 Ex display model

Also SCD-XB790 **£99.99** & CDP-CX455 **£99.99**

~~WAS £89.99~~

SONY TA-FE230

1/2 PRICE

* You might expect the bottom end of the price range in this group to be one of the secondary hi-fi brands, or even one of those 'own-brand' products only available from a particular retailer. Not so - the budget option here carries one of the best-known names in consumer electronics. Bargain price for an amp that's so well-built; sounds OK, too..." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Dec 99**
2x 40watts RMS • Tone Controls • Headphone Socket • Phono Input Twin Tape Inputs

Also TAF-E370 **£69.99**
STS-E370 Tuner **£49.99**

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★☆ DEC 99

save £50

£49.99 Ex Display Model

~~WAS £99.99~~

SONY STR-DE495

1/3 PRICE

"Class leader in terms of power and performance"
Sony Consumer Products Sep 03
5x 80w • Dolby Digital • DTS • DPL 2 • 32bit DSP Sub Out • Remote • Bstock

save £160

£69.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £229.99~~

PIONEER DV-575A

1/3 PRICE

"Product of the Year in the Awards 2003. Cracking universal player."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan 04
Superb DVD Player • MP3 • DVD-R/-RW • S Video Out RGB Out • Slimline Silver Finish • Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 04

save £180

£69.99 Ex display model

Also DV-565Pro Black **£149**

~~WAS £249.99~~

SONY MDS-JE480

1/2 PRICE

MiniDisc Recording Deck • ATRAC Type s Remote

Also PSL-X250 Turntable **£49** TCW-E475 Twin Tape **£49**

save £100

£69.99 Ex Display Model

~~WAS £169.99~~

YAMAHA RX-V440

1/3 PRICE

"A mould- breaking piece of kit that's sure to revolutionise the affordable end of the home cinema market. Astonishing sonic ability for the price; offers genuine 6.1 surround, too. This receiver is a must-audition. **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Mar 03**
6x 65 Watts Output • Dolby Digital EX • Dolby Pro-Logic 11 DTS ES • 24 Surround Programs • AM-FM Digital Tuner Preset Remote Control

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUL 03

Also RXV-350 **£99**

save £220

£79.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £299.95~~

SONY STR-DB795

MEGA DEAL

"Cracking 7 channel all-rounder"
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Nov 04
7x 100watts • DPL 11x • DTS • 99 Presets • Remote

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ NOV 04

Also STR-DB790 **£149**
STR-DB1080 **£199**
STR-DB2000 **£299**

save £130

£169.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £299.99~~

1/5 PRICE A/V SPEAKER DEALS *Call 020 8594 9901 now!*

PIONEER SCR-30

1/5 PRICE

Superb 3 Speaker AV Kit • 2x 80 Watt Rear Speakers 830mm Woofer • 135x125x125mm • 1x 80 Watt Centre 3 Way 2x 830mm Woofers 1x 25mm Dome Tweeter 330x165x106mm • Superb Beech Wood Finish

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£19.99

save £80

~~WAS £99.99~~

KEF Q95c.2

1/5 PRICE

"We can't praise this KEF highly enough. It looks good and the sounds it can generate are truly impressive."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Sep 00
Superb Centre Speaker • Uni-Q driver • Mag Shielded Biwireable • 100watt • 91db Sensitivity • 174x396x169mm Charcoal Grey

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ SEP 00

save £160

£39.99 Ex display model

Also Model 80c Uni-Q **£99.99**

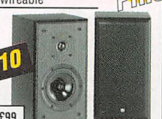
~~WAS £199.99~~

KEF CRESTA 2

1/3 PRICE

"Best Buy Awards. Superbly musical and among the best at £150." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jan01**
100 Watts • 90db Sensitivity • 8 Ohms • Biwireable 370x210x250mm • Deluxe Black Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JAN 01



save £110

£39.99

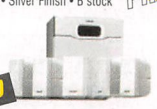
Also CodaCx2 **£99** C1ix2 **£149**

~~WAS £149.99~~

SONY SPS-M2

1/4 PRICE

"Superb High Specification Pascal 5.1 Digital Home Cinema Speaker Kit." **Sony UK Jun 03**
80watts x 5 Satellites • 50watt Powered Subwoofer • Freq Res 31Hz-24kHz • Mag Shielded • 88db Sensitivity • Silver Finish • B stock



save £150

£49.99

~~WAS £199.99~~

WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 8.3

1/2 PRICE

" Superb floorstanders and they will suit a variety of systems, to boot."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Aug 01
90Watts Handling • 86db Sensitivity 6 Ohms • Deluxe Cherry Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ AUG 01

save £130

£69.99 Ex Display Model

Also Pacific 20 **£199** Pacific 30 **£249**

~~WAS £199.99~~

KEF PSW-1000

1/4 PRICE

"The PSW-1000 uses a single downward-firing 210mm bass driver, and has a good array of socketry, including both line and speaker level inputs and outputs, a phase invert control (for easier positioning in the room) and conventional rotary controls for volume and crossover."
What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Jun 01
Superb 100 Watt Powered Subwoofer • Frequency Res 40Hz-180Hz Full Magnetic Shielding • 350x320x320mm • Deluxe Black Ash Finish

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ JUN 01

save £230

£69.99 Ex display model

Also PSW-2000 **£129.99**

~~WAS £299.99~~

CELESTION CSC

1/2 PRICE

Superbly engineered with powerfully focused sonic ability • Dual 90mm Super Woofers • Super Soft Dome Tweeter • Freq Res 88-20,000Hz 89db Sensitivity • 75Watts Handling • Magnetically Shielded • Super Deluxe Video Grey Finish

save £120

£79.99

Also CSC2 Matching Surrounds **£149.99**

~~WAS £199.99~~

TANNOY FX5.1

1/6 PRICE

"Excellent detail, good integration and impressive focus. comparatively pricey next to rivals at £480".
Superb 6 Speaker AV Package • 5x Satellite Speakers Plus Power Sub • 5x 100watts • Quality Silver Finish

Also 5x CSC + PSW1000 **£299.99**

save £400

£79.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £479.99~~

KEF PSW-3000

1/4 PRICE

"The PSW-3000 looks as good as it sounds – and this amount of power, that's mightily impressive".
KEF Loudspeakers Feb 04
Bass Reflex Downward Firing Subwoofer 300 Watts • 250mm Long Throw Base Driver Freq Res 30-140Hz • Remote Control

save £450

£149.99 Ex display model

~~WAS £599.99~~

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PANASONIC NN-E252 — 1/4 PRICE

800watt Microwave Oven • 20litre Capacity • Auto Weight, Defrost, Cook and Reheat Programs• Child Lock • 5 Power Levels • Touch Controls

£19.99 Ex display model — save £60 — ~~WAS £99.99~~

NN-K153 Grill	Was £89	Now £29
NN-K123 Silver Grill	Was £99	Now £39
NN-T552 900w	Was £119	Now £49
NN-V653 900w 1.3Kw Quartz Grill	Was £129	Now £49
NN-V673 Silver 900w 1.3Kw Quartz Grill	Was £189	Now £59
NN-A554 Compact Dim 4	Was £159	Now £69
NN-A574 Dim 4	Was £199	Now £69
NN-A774 Dim 4	Was £239	Now £79
NN-A883 Dim 4	Was £249	Now £99

Hundreds of others please phone

SONY ICF-CD2000S — 1/5 PRICE

Compact Design World Travel CD Clock Radio
Shortwave Coverage World/Local Time
Stereo Speaker • Power Backup

save £130

£29.99 Ex display model

Also ICF-SW100E £39 & ICF-SW07 £49

~~WAS £159.99~~

SONY MZ-N510 — 1/3 PRICE

Net Mini Disc Recorder • Up To 56 Hrs Batt Life
32x Fast Record From PC • USB Port Supplied
With AC Adaptor, Case and Headphones

save £100

£49.99 Ex display model

Also MZ-N710 £99.99

~~WAS £149.99~~

SONY DCR-TRV255E (Ex Display Bargains) — 1/2 PRICE

Digital 8 Camcorder • USB • SteadyShot • 20x Optical 990x Digital Zoom • i.Link

£149.99 Ex display model — save £150 — ~~WAS £299.99~~

CCD-TRV218	Was £349	Now £99	DCR-HC20	Was £499	Now £299
DCR-TRV145	Was £399	Now £149	DCR-TRV33	Was £799	Now £299
DCR-TRV265	Was £329	Now £169	DCR-DVD91	Was £599	Now £299
DCR-HC14	Was £349	Now £189	DCR-DVD101	Was £649	Now £299
DCR-HC18	Was £399	Now £229	DCR-HC30	Was £549	Now £329
DCR-TRV22	Was £699	Now £249	DCR-HC40	Was £599	Now £349

TOSHIBA 28Z13B — 1/3 PRICE

"Outstanding picture quality aided by its flatscreen tube. It sounds superb too". **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Apr 02** • 28" Widescreen Colour TV • Flat Face Nicam • 20Watts • RMS Power Output

£199.99 Ex display model — save £400 — WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ APR 02 — ~~WAS £599.99~~

SONY KV-32FX68U — 1/3 PRICE

"Great picture; fine sound; user friendly." **What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision Feb 04** • 32 Flat Tube CTV • Fastext • 3 Scart • Front AV • 100 Channels • Remote Control

£299.99 Ex display model — WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ FEB 04 — ~~WAS £899.99~~ — save £600

STOP PRESS (Ex Display Bargains)

Panasonic W/man RQ-SX57	Was £59	Now £9
Technics RP-F400 Headphones	Was £69	Now £9
B&W LCR-3 Centre	Was £149	Now £19
KEF HTS-2001 Stands	Was £79	Now £19
Wharfedale Valdus Centre	Was £99	Now £19
KEF Q8 Surrounds	Was £199	Now £29
Denon DVP-1710 DVD Player	Was £129	Now £49
Yamaha DVD-S550	Was £129	Now £49
Sony SLV-E840 Video	Was £139	Now £69
Sony RCD-W3 CDR	Was £249	Now £99
Panasonic SC-DT110 Home Cin	Was £399	Now £99
Sony DVP-NS930 DVD Player	Was £299	Now £99
Rotel RA-01	Was £249	Now £129
Sony MVC-FD200 Camera	Was £299	Now £149
Yamaha RXV-450 AV Receiver	Was £349	Now £149
Marantz SR-6300 AV Receiver	Was £699	Now £199
Sony MDS-JA333ES MiniDisc	Was £899	Now £199
Panasonic DMR-HS2 DVD Rec	Was £999	Now £199
Toshiba 14LV33 LCD TV	Was £399	Now £199
Pioneer DVR-420 DVD Rec	Was £499	Now £299
Sony DVP-NS999ES DVD Player	Was £999	Now £399
Sony KLV-17HR2	Was £999	Now £399

AMPLIFIERS

NAD

C350	ED	£ 99.99
C352		£ 149.99
C350		£ 249.99

SONY

TA-FE230	ED	£ 49.99
TA-FE370	ED	£ 69.99

TUNERS

NAD

C420	ED	£ 49.99
C422		£ 99.99
C420		£ 179.99

SONY

STS-E370	ED	£ 49.99
STS-B920	ED	£ 69.99
STS-DB900ED		£ 129.99

CASSETTE DECKS

SONY

TCW-E475	ED	£ 49.99

YAMAHA

KX-393		£ 49.99

TURNTABLES

PROJECT

Phono Box	ED	£ 29.99
DEBUT 3	ED	£ 89.99
DEBUT PHONO SB	ED	£ 149.99
1 XpressionED		£ 169.99

SONY

PS-J20	ED	£ 29.99
PS-LX250	ED	£ 49.99

COMPACT DISCS

SONY

CDP-XE270ED		£ 39.99
CDP-XE370ED		£ 49.99
SCD-XB790ED		£ 99.99
SCD-CE595ED		£ 99.99
CDP-CX355ED		£ 99.99

DIGITAL RECORDERS

SONY

MDS-JE480ED		£ 69.99
RCD-W3	ED	£ 99.99

AUDIO SYSTEMS

DENON

D-M31	ED	£ 99.99

SONY

CMT-NE3	ED	£ 39.99
MHC-RG121ED		£ 49.99
CMT-GPX5	ED	£ 49.99
CMT-HPX7	ED	£ 79.99
CMT-SE1	ED	£ 79.99
CMT-CQ1	ED	£ 79.99
CMT-M333NTED		£ 99.99

MD/MS WALKMANS

SONY

MZN-510	ED	£ 49.99
MZ-N10	ED	£ 69.99
MZN-710	ED	£ 99.99

SPEAKERS

ACOUSTIC ENERGY

AE Aegis EVO 3		£ 49.99
AE120		£ 99.99

B&W

DM-309	ED	£ 69.99
DM601 S3	ED	£ 129.99
DM602 S3	ED	£ 149.99
DM600SE		£ 199.99
DM602.5 S3	ED	£ 249.99
DM603 S3	ED	£ 299.99

CELESTION

A Compact		£ 79.99
C1	BS	£ 99.99
A1		£ 99.99

KEF

Cresta 10	ED	£ 39.99
Coda 70	ED	£ 49.99
Cresta 30	ED	£ 69.99
Coda 9	ED	£ 69.99
Coda 90	ED	£ 69.99
Q15	ED	£ 99.99
Q35.2	ED	£ 149.99
TDM-23F	BS	£ 199.99
Q3 Apple	ED	£ 199.99
Q55.2	ED	£ 249.99
Q65	ED	£ 299.99
TDM-23F		£ 299.99
TDM-23F/THX Stand		£ 349.99

MISSION

M31i	ED	£ 39.99
780Black	ED	£ 99.99
M34i	ED	£ 99.99
781Black	ED	£ 129.99
780Ro/Be	ED	£ 149.99
781Rose	ED	£ 169.99
782Black	ED	£ 169.99
781Black		£ 249.99
780Ro/Be		£ 249.99
781Rose		£ 299.99
782Rose	ED	£ 299.99
783Black	ED	£ 299.99
782Black		£ 399.99
782Rose		£ 499.99
783Black		£ 599.99

WHARFEDALE

Diamond 8.3		£ 69.99
Pacific 20		£ 199.99
Pacific 40		£ 399.99

A/V CENTRE SPEAKERS

B&W

LCR-60	ED	£ 49.99

CELESTION

A4c		£ 19.99
C4c	BS	£ 99.99
CSC		£ 99.99
C1i		£ 149.99

KEF

Cresta C	BS	£ 9.99
Q9c	ED	£ 19.99
80c	BS	£ 89.99
Coda C		£ 99.99
80c		£ 99.99
TDM-23C		£ 299.99

MISSION

M3c1	ED	£ 29.99
M3c2	ED	£ 49.99
78c Black		£ 249.99

A/V REAR SPEAKERS

CELESTION

Little 1	ED	£ 19.99
MP-1	ED	£ 49.99
CSC-2		£ 149.99

KEF

Q8s NoMO	ED	£ 29.99
Q85s		£ 149.99
TDM-23F	BS	£ 199.99
TDM-23F		£ 299.99
TDM-23F/THX Stand		£ 349.99
Model 65DSED		£ 349.99

MISSION

78dsBeech	ED	£ 99.99
78dsBeech		£ 249.99
78dsBlack		£ 299.99

A/V SUBWOOFERS

B&W

ASW-1000		£ 149.99

CELESTION

S80	ED	£ 149.99
S8		£ 199.99
S10	ED	£ 199.99
C6s	BS	£ 199.99
C6s		£ 299.99

KEF

PSW-1000	ED	£ 69.99
PSW-2000	ED	£ 129.99
PSW-3000	ED	£ 149.99
PSW-1000		£ 169.99
PSW-2000	BS	£ 249.99
PSW-3000	BS	£ 299.99
THX-TDM45BBS		£ 299.99
PSW-3000		£ 349.99
THX-TDM45B		£ 599.99

MISSION

78as Bl/Ro	ED	£ 149.99
78as Black		£ 349.99
78as Rose		£ 399.99

A/V SPEAKER PACKAGES

KEF

HTS-2001 Stand	ED	£ 19.99
KHT-2005 NoMO	ED	£ 299.99
KHT-3005 NoMO	ED	£ 499.99
KHT-2005 NoMO	BS	£ 599.99
KHT-3005 NoMO	BS	£ 699.99
KHT-3005 NoMO		£ 799.99

MISSION

M7s		£ 69.99
Cinema M30ED		£ 79.99
780/780/CSC Black	ED	£ 199.99
781/780/CSC Black	ED	£ 249.99
780/780/CSC Ro/Be	ED	£ 299.99
780/780/CSC Black		£ 349.99
781/780/CSCRose	ED	£ 349.99
781/780/CSC Black		£ 399.99
781/780/CSC Black		£ 399.99
780/780/CSC Beech		£ 399.99
781/780/CSC Rose		£ 499.99
782/780/CSC Black		£ 499.99
782/780/CSC Rose		£ 699.99

YAMAHA

NSP-100		£ 79.99
NSP-100S		£ 149.99
NSP-610		£ 249.99

A/V AMPLIFIERS

YAMAHA

DSP-AX640ED		£ 149.99
DSP-AX640		£ 299.99

A/V RECEIVERS

DENON

AVR-1705	ED	£ 79.99
AVR-1905	ED	£ 99.99
AVR-2803		£ 149.99
AVR-2105	ED	£ 199.99
AVR-2805	ED	£ 299.99
AVR-3805	ED	£ 499.99

MARANTZ

SR4400		£ 69.99
SR5400		£ 79.99
SR6300	ED	£ 199.99
SR7300	ED	£ 299.99

PIONEER

VSX-D511		£ 69.99
VSX-C100		£ 149.99
VSX-C502		£ 169.99

SONY

STR-DE495ED		£ 49.99
STR-DE497ED		£ 99.99
STR-DE790ED		£ 129.99
STR-DB795ED		£ 149.99
STR-DB780ED		£ 179.99
STR-DB1080ED		£ 179.99
STR-DB2000ED		£ 199.99

YAMAHA

RX-V440		£ 79.99
RX-V350	ED	£ 99.99
RX-V450	ED	£ 149.99
RX-V540		£ 199.99
RX-V650	ED	£ 199.99
RX-V540T		£ 249.99

DVD

DENON

DVD-1710	ED	£ 49.99

PANASONIC

DVD-S47	ED	£ 29.99
DVD-S35	ED	£ 49.99

PIONEER

DV-464B		£ 29.99
DV-464S		£ 79.99
DV-575S	ED	£ 69.99
DV-565B		£ 149.99

SONY

DVP-M50	ED	£ 19.99
DVP-PQ2	ED	£ 29.99
DVP-NS355ED		£ 39.99
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TOSHIBA

SD-240		£ 29.99
SD-330E	BS	£ 39.99
SD-340		£ 49.99
SD-330E		£ 79.99

YAMAHA

DVD-S550	ED	£ 49.99

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PANASONIC

DRM-E50	ED	£ 99.99
DRM-E55	ED	£ 149.99
DRM-E65	ED	£ 199.99
DRM-HS2	ED	£ 199.99

PIONEER

DVR-420	ED	£ 299.99

SONY

RDR-GX3	ED	£ 149.99
RDR-GX300ED		£ 199.99
RDR-GX7	ED	£ 249.99
RDR-HX1000ED		£ 499.99

TELEVISIONS

PANASONIC

TX-14	ED	£ 29.99
TX-28PS5	ED	£ 149.99
TX-28DT40	ED	£ 179.99
TX-32DTX40ED		£ 249.99
TX-36PD30ED		£ 499.99

SONY

KV-14CT1	ED	£ 39.99
KV-21CL10	ED	£ 99.99
KV-28CL10	ED	£ 149.99
KV-28LS36	ED	£ 179.99
KD-28DL10	ED	£ 199.99
KV-28FX68	ED	£ 199.99
KD-28DX50	ED	£ 199.99
KV-32LS36	ED	£ 249.99
KD-28DX200	ED	£ 299.99
KV-36FS76	ED	£ 499.99
KP-44DX2	ED	£ 699.99
KF-50SX100	ED	£ 999.99

TOSHIBA

14-N21	ED	£ 39.99
21-S23	ED	£ 99.99
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36-ZP38P	ED	£ 699.99

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SONY

KLV-15SR	ED	£ 199.99
KLV-17SR	ED	£ 299.99
KLV-17SR2	ED	£ 399.99
KLV-21SR2	ED	£ 499.99

DVD/AV SYSTEMS

DENON

AVD-M71	ED	£ 99.99
DHT-500SDED		£ 149.99

PANASONIC

SC-DT110	ED	£ 99.99
SC-HT520	ED	£ 99.99
SC-DT310	ED	£ 129.99
SC-ST1	ED	£ 199.99

SONY

HTB-E1	ED	£ 49.99
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SAV-E325	ED	£ 49.99
DAV-SA30	ED	£ 79.99
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DAV-SC5	ED	£ 129.99
DAV-D150GED		£ 149.99
DAV-SB300ED		£ 149.99
DAV-SC6	ED	£ 199.99
DAV-SC8	ED	£ 229.99
DAV-SR2	ED	£ 249.99
DAV-SB500WED		£ 299.99
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TOSHIBA

SD-44HK	ED	£ 69.99

DIGITAL CAMERAS

SONY

DSC-U10	ED	£ 49.99
DSC-U30	ED	£ 59.99
DSC-U40	ED	£ 69.99
DSC-U60	ED	£ 89.99
DSC-P8	ED	£ 99.99
DSC-P10	ED	£ 119.99
DSC-P12	ED	£ 129.99
DSC-FX77	ED	£ 129.99
DSC-V1	ED	£ 199.99

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Ci130FS — ~~WAS £99.99~~ — 1/2 PRICE

"The custom install range gives installers the same quality as available in KEF hi-fi purists range." **Jan 02**
KEF Audio(UK) Ltd
Purpose-Built Flush Mounting Hi-Fi Speakers • Freq Res 75Hz-20kHz
X-over Freq 2.8 kHz • 50 Watts Handling
Max Output 103db • 198x198x88mm
Superb White Finish Grill

£39.99 EACH — save £60

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2 Way Uni-Q • 2 Driver
100 Watts Handling
Integral Positioning
Motor Suitable For Remote Control

£129.99 EACH Ex display model — save £170

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Ci400	£ 59.99	Ci-200QR	£ 99.99	Ci-200QT	£ 129.99	Ci-200.2QT BS	£ 199.99
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One-box powerhouses to drive your speakers – with or without tuners

BUDGET Up to £501 and over

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Int amp	Receiver	Power out (w)	Line level in	MM phono	MC phono	Tape loops	Preamp out	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote	Finishes
Arcam DiVA A80	620	10.03/FT	★★★★☆	Incisive and beautifully built, but the Arcam is just a touch lightweight.	●		65	5	●		1	●	1		●	●	Sl
Arcam DiVA A90	850	10.04/ST	★★★☆☆	Flexible and warm but ultimately, this amplifier sounds anonymous.	●		90	5			2	●	1	●	●	●	2
Arcam FMJ A32	1200	07.02/ST	★★★★☆	The FMJ A32 is a flexible product with good sound and masses of features.	●		100	5			2	●	2	●	●	●	2
Audio Analog Puccini Settanta	950	02.05/FT	★★★★☆	Distinctive-sounding with great authority - worth serious consideration.	●		70	4	●	●	1		2			●	Sl
Audio Note Meishu	3350	06.96	★★★★☆	Delivers the goods at low levels and excels with acoustic music.	●		8	4			1		1				
Audio Note Oto	1200	08.94	★★★★☆	Valve amp with a tight, fast sound. Plenty of attack, bass and treble.	●		12	4			1		1				Bk
Audio Note Oto SE	1600	07.02/ST	★★★★☆	Partner sensibly and this Audio Note amplifier will please like little else.	●		10	4			1						Bk
Audio Note Soro SE	2600	12.02/FT	★★★★☆	Blows valve stereotypes of excess warmth and soggy bass into the weeds.	●		20	4			1		1				Bk
Audionet SAM V2	2300	07.02/FT	★★★★☆	Impressive - it isn't flawless, but its strengths are considerable.	●		110	5			1	●	1				2
AVI Laboratory Series	1499	11.03/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo amplifier £1400-£3000 in Awards 2004. Digs deep.	●		200	6			1	●	1			●	Bk
Bryston B60	2000	02.00/FT	★★★★☆	No-nonsense, it simply gets on with the task of reproducing music.	●		60	4			1		1		●		
Chord Electronics CPM 2600	3535	04.03/FT	★★★★☆	Fine amp - few rivals can match its power, speed and resolution.	●		120	6			2	●	1			●	Sl
Creek 5350SE	850	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	Good rather than great product - definitely worth a listen though.	●		85	4			2		2		●	●	Al
Creek A50iR	550	07.03/FT	★★★★☆	Very good amp for the money - combines simplicity and performance.	●		50	4			1		1			●	Sl
Cymbol Electronics CA1	799	01.98/ST	★★★★☆	A competitive design from the Brits which sounds fresh, fast and exciting.	●		40	5			1	●	1				Sl
Cyrus 6vs	600	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Significant upgrade to the 6 - this new entry-level amplifier is a peach.	●		40	6			1	●	1			●	2
Cyrus 8vs	800	10.04/ST	★★★★★	Best stereo amplifier £800-£1400 in Awards 2004. Swoonly good.	●		70	6			1	●	2		●	●	2
EAR/Yoshino V20	3430	11.98/GT	★★★★★	Stunning valve amp with top quality sonics. Choose speakers with care.	●		25	5			0		1				Sl
Eclipse TD A502	875	10.04/ST	★★★★★	Looks like nothing else - one of the best options in this price range.	●		30	1			0		1				Sl
Electrocompaniet EC1-3	1000	10.04/ST	★★★★☆	Competitive - warm, even-handed sound and remarkable soundstage.	●		75	5			1	●	1			●	Bk
Exposure 2010s	599	Awd.04	★★★★☆	Can do refinement and finesse, but this new version can't rock.	●		75	5			1	●	1			●	2
Exposure 3010	1000	10.04/ST	★★★★☆	Errs on the safe side - if you like it smooth and creamy, look no further.	●		100	5			1	●	1			●	Sl
GRAAF GM50 (valve)	3950	08.04/FT	★★★★★	Fantastic - good enough to put other similarly priced amps to shame.	●		50	4			2		1			●	Bk
Krell KAV-400xi	2698	03.04/FT	★★★★★	Accomplished all-rounder with power, refinement and good build.	●		200	4			1	●	1			●	2
Linn Majik	975	06.01/GT	★★★☆☆	Does everything perfectly competently, but lacks a certain sparkle.	●		33	3	●	●	2	●	2		●	●	Bk
Marantz PM-17 MkII 'M' KI	1500	12.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Elegant appearance and a pleasant sound but it isn't an all-round star.	●		60	4	●	●	2	●	1	●	●	●	Gd
Moon I-3	1595	11.03/GT	★★★★☆	Highly appealing with its blend of refinement, timing and dynamics.	●		100	6			0	●	2			●	Bk
Myryad MXI2150	1700	02.05/FT	★★★★★	Look past its appearance, this amp sets a sky-high standard at this price.	●		150	6			2		1			●	2
NAD Silverline S300	1600	07.02/ST	★★★★☆	Superb build and finish, but sound quality doesn't quite match up.	●		100	4			1		1			●	Sl
Naim Nait 5i	699	04.04/GT	★★★★★	Relentlessly musical with real verve - compatible with other brands.	●		50	3			1		1			●	Bk
Onkyo A-1VL	1100	10.04/ST	★★☆☆☆	Digital amplifier - a tiring and tiresome listen.	●		100	5	●		1	●	1			●	Sl
Orelle SA100evo	1200	11.03/GT	★★★★☆	Immensely telented product - good enough to worry the class leaders.	●		80	5			1	●	1			●	Sl
Pathos Classic One	1325	01.04/FT	★★★★☆	Valve/transistor hybrid that looks stunning - worth seeking out.	●		70	4			1		1			●	Bk
Pathos Logos (Valve)	2750	11.03/FT	★★★★★	Looks magnificent and sounds even better - brilliant engineering.	●		110	5			1		1			●	Gry
Primare A30.1	1500	11.03/GT	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Still great, but competition is tough.	●		100	6			2	●	1			●	Bk
Primare I-20	750	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	Excellent build and appearance, and more than competent sound.	●		70	4			0	●	1			●	Bk
Pro-ject Pre Box/Power Box	800	04.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Pre/power amp combo - not bad, but integrated rivals perform better.	●		65	4			1	●	1				Bk
Red Rose Model 5 (valve)	7999	06.03/FT	★★★★★	Produces one of the most seductive sounds we've heard in ages.	●		45	5			1		1			●	Sl
Rega Mira 3	598	05.03/ST	★★★☆☆	We love the looks but it sounds bland alongside the class leaders.	●		61	4	●		1	●	1				2
Roksan Caspian M series-1	1000	11.04/ST	★★★★☆	Worthy piece of kit, but it is now lacks the sparkle of the best.	●		70	5			1	●	1			●	Sl
Roksan Kandy MkIII	650	05.03/ST	★★★★★	Best stereo amplifier £500-£800 in Awards 2004.	●		120	5	●		1	●	1		●	●	6
Sugden A21a	1049	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	We love this hot-running machine, when well matched it'll sing.	●		25	4	●	●	1	●	1				Sl

Making magic out of music — spellbinding reviews across the range

"Here's a machine that advances the ability of its excellent predecessor by an almost absurd degree. The Cyrus 8vs is an absolute superstar"

What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision Oct 04 Supertest winner Oct 2004

CYRUS

Advanced Audio and Video Systems

Cyrus Electronics, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 6XY

Tel: +44 (0)1480 435577
Fax: +44 (0)1480 437715
email: info@cyrusaudio.com

www.cyruslink.co.uk
www.cyrusaudio.com

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS 08456777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Integrated amplifiers/receivers continued...

One-box powerhouses to drive your speakers – with or without tuners

BUDGET Up to £501 and over

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Int amp	Receiver	Power out (w)	Line level in	MM phono	MC phono	Tape loops	Preamp out	Speakers	Tone controls	Headphone	Remote	Finishes
Sugden Masterclass	3150	06.02/FT	★★★★★	Stonking performer, excellent combined with the Masterclass CD player.	●		33	3	●		1	●	2				Sl
T+A V10 (valve)	4000	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Very fine performer that's capable of a pleasing slice of sonic heaven.	●		80	5			1		1			●	Sl
Tube Technology Synergy PPS	9000	01.99	★★★★★	Gorgeous valve amp - all the convenience and power a user demands.	●		150	5			1	●	1				Sl
Tube Tech. Unisis Signature	2700	02.95	★★★★☆	Attractive valve amp; looks and great sound make it very good value.	●		35	4	●		1	●	1				Sl
Unison Research S2K (valve)	1475	04.02/FT	★★★★☆	Offers fine build and subtle sound wrapped in a distinctive package.	●		15	4			1		1			●	Wd
Unison Research S8	3350	07.00/FT	★★★★☆	Fabulous with vocals - puts refinement ahead of sonic fireworks.	●		24	4			1		2			●	Wd
Unison Research Unico line	900	10.04/ST	★★★★★	Refined, but not prissy - an amplifier of rare ability.	●		80	4			2	●	2			●	Gry

Preamps

The control section of the amp – team with a power amp or active loudspeakers

BUDGET Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	INPUTS: Line Level	INPUTS: MM phono	INPUTS: MC phono	OUTPUTS: Tape loops	OUTPUTS: No of outputs	OUTPUTS: Balanced out	OUTPUTS: Tone Controls	OUTPUTS: Headphone	OUTPUTS: Remote	Finishes
Audio Analogue Bellini Rem	625	11.02	★★★★☆	An elegant and refined three-box combo - 2xDonizetti monoblocs with the Bellini.	●	●		1	2				●	Gry
Audio Note M-One R	900	10.00/FT	★★★★★	If you want a musically talented preamp there are very few superior.	●			1					●	Sl
Audio Note M-Zero	500	08.01/ST	★★★★☆	Pair the M-Zero with the P-Zero power amp for a generous helping of valve magic.	●			1	2					Sl
Crimson CS-610C	545	11.02	★★★★☆	Tested with two CS630C monoblocs (now replaced by CS630D) - refreshingly bold.	●	●		1						
Linn Kolektor	575	07.02	★★★★☆	The LK85/Kolektor combo backs up impressive flexibility with solid sound performance.	●	●		1	3		●	●	●	Bk
Linn Wakonda	995	03.00	★★★★☆	Much to like about the LK140/Wakonda combo - not the most transparent around.	●			1	2			●	●	Bk
Moth 30 Series Passive	175	09.92	★★★☆☆	Passive, line-level-only preamp. Voices sound natural, but results dependent on cable.	●			1						Bk
Myryad MXP2000	1000	07.04	★★★★☆	Tested with the MXA2150 power amp - the only shortcomings were with this preamp.	●			1	2				●	2
NAD Silverline S100	600	04.99	★★★★☆	The combination of S100/S200 gives an easygoing sound that packs a hefty punch.	●			2	3	●			●	Sl
Naim NAC 112x	680	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Strong combination with the NAP 150x power amp - a hugely enjoyable listen.	●			3	1				●	Bk
Parasound Halo P3	700	11.02	★★★☆☆	It's certainly talented, but the Halo P3/A23 power combo lacks some excitement.	●	●		1	2	●	●	●	●	Sl
Quad 99	750	11.02	★★★★★	Detail, speed, muscularity, authority and dynamics - 99 pre/power combo has the lot.	●	●		1	1		●		●	Sl
Rotel RC1070	395	08.01	★★★☆☆	The pair RB1070/RB1080 is best suited those who want rate power over subtlety.	●	●		2	2		●	●	●	Bk
Sugden Headmaster	659	06.01	★★★★★	Headphone amp/preamp - a great niche product that sounds brilliant. Was £599.	●			1	3			●		Gry

BUDGET £1001 and over

Arcam FMJ C30	1200	09.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Fails to impress when combined with two P1 power amps.	●	●		2	2	●		●	●	2
Audio Note M2-phono	2000	05.01/FT	★★★★☆	The M2 and the P4 power amp combinations is capable of breathtaking sonic feats.	●	●		1	4					Bk
Audio Research SP16	2499	08.02/FT	★★★★☆	Great sound from the entry-level combo of SP16/VS55 but the finish is isn't good.	●	●		1					●	Sl
Audionet Pre 1 G2	2000	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Not cheap but combined with Amp 1 power amp its sonic performance justifies the price.	●			1	2	●			●	2
Bryston BP-25	1825	09.04/GT	★★★★☆	Fine-sounding with the 3B SST power amp, but could do with a cosmetic update.	●			1	2	●			●	Bk
Chord Electronics CPA 2200	3125	07.99	★★★★★	With the SPM600 power amp, the Chords are very hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	●			2	3	●			●	Sl
Chord Elec. CPA 4000 Enhanced	7615	05.01	★★★★★	Use with the SPM 1200E amp - they belong right at the forefront of high-end amplification.	●			2	3	●		●	●	Sl
Cyrus PreXvs	1100	01.05/FT	★★★★★	Detailed, agile and dynamic performer that is easy to upgrade.	●			2	2			●	●	2
DNM Reson 3C Primus	2100	05.01/FT	★★★★★	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing - excellent phono stage. Tested with PA3.	●			1	1	●				Bk
DNM Series 3C Six	4100	03.99/FT	★★★★☆	Used with the DNM PA3s they merit a serious audition. Unimpressive cosmetics.	●			1	1	●				Bk
EAR/Yoshino 864	1850	Awd.01	★★★★★	Gutsy but involving valve-amp, when used with 861 power, is something special.	●	●		0	5	●				Sl
GRAAF GM 13.5B II	3995	01.00	★★★★★	Partner with GM20 power amp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	●			1	6	●				Bk
Linn Exotik	1750	09.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Combine with the 2250 power amp for great looks and feel - sonic abilities fall short.	●			1	8				●	2
Moon P-3	2850	Awd.01	★★★★☆	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts long-term listenability before attack.	●			1	2	●			●	2
Naim NAC 202	1400	07.03/FT	★★★★★	Naim's pairing of this preamp with the NAP200 power amp is very tempting indeed.	●			3	1				●	Bk
Naim NAC 282	2830	09.04/GT	★★★★☆	Delivers a music buzz that few rivals can match - paired with the NAP 200 and Hi-Cap.	●			3	1				●	Bk
Primare Pre30	1200	01.03	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. With A30.2 has a powerful, warm, generous sound.	●			1	3	●			●	Bk
Roksan Caspian M-series	1250	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo amplifier £1400-£3000 in Awards 2004 with two Caspian M-series monoblocs.	●	●		1	3					Sl
TAG McLarenDPA32R-dab	1595	11.00/FT	★★★★★	Combined preamp and DAC, use with the CDT20R T21 for an extremely musical delivery.	●			1	3				●	Sl
Talk Electronics Hurricane 2.2	1200	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Combine with the Tornado 2.2 pre-amp for plenty of sonic talent.	●			0	4				●	2

Power amps

Supplies the music muscle to the loudspeakers – just add a pre-amp

BUDGET Up to £800

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Stereo	Mono	Power (w)	Bridgeable	Phono in	XLR in	Finishes
Arcam DiVA P90/3	770	03.04/FT	★★★★★	Pair with the Arcam A90 and 7.1 board - a surround sound revelation at the price.	●		3x90		●		2
Audio Analogue Donizetti Mono	525	11.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Elegant and refined three-box combo - 2 x this monobloc plus the Bellini preamp.		●	100		●		Gry
Audio Note P-Zero	799	08.01/ST	★★★★☆	Pair the P-Zero power amp with the M-Zero preamp for a generous helping of valve magic.		●	8		●		Bk
Cyrus SmartPower	600	11.02/GT	★★★★★	Brilliant with the aCA7.5 preamp(now discontinued). It produces awesome dynamics.	●	●	60	●	●		Bk
Exposure 2010 Titanium	499	02.02/FT	★★★★☆	Significant upgrade for the 2010 integrated amp - makes an impressive combination.	●		60	●	●		Al
Linn LK85	545	07.02/ST	★★★★☆	The LK85/Kolektor combo backs up impressive flexibility with solid sound performance.	●		62		●		Bk
Moth 30 Series Power	275	09.92	★★★☆☆	Skinny monobloc, capable of an open, informative sound throughout the frequency range.		●	30		●		Bk
Naim NAP 150x	795	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Strong combination with the NAC 112x preamp - hugely enjoyable.	●		50				Bk

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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- Q MAGAZINE

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Please contact your local store or see our website. (Store details on page 6 of this ad)

SYSTEM SUPERDEALS OF THE MONTH!

Cambridge Audio + MISSION SYSTEM

Hi-Fi Separates

CD PLAYER: CAMBRIDGE AUDIO 340C
TSP £149.95

AMPLIFIER: CAMBRIDGE AUDIO 340A (40 WPC)
TSP £149.95

SPEAKERS (PAIR): MISSION M71i (75 WPC)
TSP £129.95

SYSTEM TSP £429.85
£130 OFF TSP!
£299.95
Brand New Boxed
All basic connecting leads included

NAD + MORDAUNT-SHORT SYSTEM

Hi-Fi Separates

CD PLAYER: NAD C521BEE (What Hi-Fi? Best Buy 2003)
TSP £199.95

AMPLIFIER: NAD C352CT
TSP £349.95 WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ June '04 (BEST BUY HI-FI CHOICE) (80 WPC)

SPEAKERS (PAIR): MORDAUNT SHORT MS914
TSP £279.95 WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Feb '04 (150 WPC)

SYSTEM TSP £829.85
£230 OFF TSP!
£599.95
Brand New Boxed
All basic connecting leads included

Pioneer + MORDAUNT-SHORT SYSTEM

Home Cinema Systems

DVD PLAYER: PIONEER DV575 (MULTI-REGION)
TSP £149.95 WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Nov '04

AV 5.1 RECEIVER: PIONEER VSXC502 (100 WPC)
TSP £299.95 WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Nov '04

SPEAKERS : MORDAUNT-SHORT GENIE
TSP £799.95 WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Nov '04 (WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR COMPACT SPEAKER PACKAGE MORDAUNT-SHORT GENIE)

SYSTEM TSP £1249.85
£250 OFF TSP!
£999.95
Brand New Boxed
All basic connecting leads included

Goodmans 1104

Mini Hi-Fi Systems

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Nov '04

TSP £99.95
£20 OFF TSP!
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

DENON DM31

Mini Hi-Fi Systems

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ June '03

TSP £249.95
£70 OFF TSP!
£179.95
Brand New Boxed

LG DAT200

All-in-one AV Systems

Includes 5.1 amp, DVD player & 6 speakers
Includes freeview

TSP £219.95
£100 OFF TSP!
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

TOSHIBA SD44

All-in-one AV Systems

Includes 5.1 amp, DVD player & 6 speakers
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Jan '05

TSP £249.95
£100 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£149.95
Brand New Boxed

Panasonic SCHT520

All-in-one AV Systems

Includes 5.1 amp, DVD player & 6 speakers

TSP £249.95
£80 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£169.95
Brand New Boxed

Cambridge Audio 540V

All-in-one AV Systems

Includes 5.1 amp, DVD player & 6 speakers

TSP £499.95
£200 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£299.95
Brand New Boxed

NAD L70 (Excl. Speakers)

All-in-one AV Systems

Includes 5.1 amp & DVD player

Editor's Choice

TSP £699.95
£300 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£399.95
Brand New Boxed

TEAC LEGACY 800

All-in-one AV Systems

Includes 5.1 amp, DVD player & 6 speakers
Picture Approximate

TSP £1299.95
£700 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£599.95
Brand New Boxed

DVD MEGA BARGAIN!
PIXAR'S MONSTERS INC.
99p
TSP £18.95
1 per customer

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We are fed up with e-tailers advertising items not yet released in the UK, or bargains that exist only in their imagination. Having said that, we will still price beat against other web retailers* as long as they provide a UK phone number that we can call to verify. If the product exists then we will price beat.

*including P&P, where collections are not possible.

Excludes TVs (because ours are UK stock with a much more comprehensive warranty), special orders and accessories.

SOME OF THESE OFFERS ARE EXCLUSIVE TO What Hi-Fi? Sound & Vision MAGAZINE READERS. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING. AVAILABLE FROM 3RD FEBRUARY TO 10TH MARCH. HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE. ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT. SEE PAGE 6 OF THIS AD FOR OPENING TIMES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, E&OE. ALL TRADEMARKS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED.

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Amplifiers

Cambridge Audio A1

"Strong and effortless with a wide range of equipment… a bargain piece of hi-fi with a magic all of its own," said What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine about the original A1.
TSP £99.95

£20 OFF TSP!
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available Cambridge A1 MK3SE for only £99.95

DENON PMA255UK

"This is an amp to get your head banging thanks to its razor-sharp timing and ability." commented What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine of this budget barnstormer! Clean and effortless, with an excellent soundstage, this Denon is a winner.
TSP £159.95
Stocks Limited

£60 OFF TSP!
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

NAD C320BEE

Hi-Fi World

"Bass lines are rock-solid and punchy."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £219.95

£40 OFF TSP!
£179.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available C352CT for only £299.95

Cambridge Audio Azur 540A

"It has excellent refinement and control, handling the subtle nuances of jazz and chamber music with great aplomb."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. Available in black and silver.

AMAZING VALUE!
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available 640A for only £249.95

CD Players

Cambridge Audio CD36

Cambridge know how to pull out all the stops! The CD36 comes complete with on-screen display for MP3 management and an optical output, so you can connect easily to a digital recorder, or home cinema amp.
TSP £119.95

£40 OFF TSP!
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

marantz CD5400

"The backbone of the Marantz's impressive delivery is the level of detail it uncovers."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £149.95
Stocks Erratic

£50 OFF TSP!
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available CD7300 for only £239.95

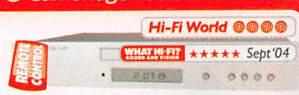
NAD C521BEE

"NAD's player emerges as a clear Award winner."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £199.95

£30 OFF TSP!
£169.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available C542 for only £279.95

Cambridge Audio Azur 640C



"Once in its stride there's not much to touch the 640C this side of £500."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
Also available in black

AMAZING VALUE!
£249.95
Brand New Boxed

Tuners

ARISTON TX510

An amazing deal on this Ariston tuner! 20 presets, FM and AM wavebands for this low price is just incredible. We must be mad! Whether you love listening to the radio, or you need one to complete your system, this tuner is ideal.
OSP £119.95

£70 OFF OSP!
£49.95
Last Few… So Hurry!

DENON TU260L MK2

"The Denon makes an excellent job of everything."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine. They went on to say "This is a fine upgrade to a classic tuner that's good value for money."
TSP £129.95

£50 OFF TSP!
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

Cambridge Audio DAB300

Also DAB500 £149.95

Hi-Fi World

"Displayed a refinement and finesse that completely belied its price point."
- *Hi-Fi World* magazine.
TSP £149.95
Also available in black.

£30 OFF TSP!
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

Cambridge Audio Azur 640T

"A fully-featured DAB/FM tuner that's a pleasure to look at and listen to." - *Digital Home* magazine. Also available in black. Stocks Erratic

AMAZING VALUE!
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

Digital Recorders

SONY MDSJE480

Sony, the inventors of minidisc technology, have just released this new model, and the 'MDSJE480 is up there with the very best!
TSP £169.95

£70 OFF TSP!
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

PHILIPS CDR796

Recording CDs has never been easier - one tray plays back, and one records. Easy-peasy!
TSP £379.95

£200 OFF TSP!
£179.95
Brand New Boxed

Cassette Decks

YAMAHA KX393

"This is an impressive recorder at the price, offering clarity."- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £139.95

£40 OFF TSP!
SINGLE
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

Turntables

Pro-Ject Debut 3

"Incredible value for money."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound & Vision magazine.

AMAZING VALUE!
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

Headphones

beyerdynamic DT231

"The levels of detail catch every nuance… an excellent product."
- What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £39.95

What Hi-Fi? ★★★★★ Awards '01

SAVE £££s!
£29.95
Brand New Boxed

Remotes

ONE FOR ALL Mosaic

Take advantage of this crazy price today!
TSP £249.95

£200 OFF TSP!
£49.95
Brand New Boxed

Portable DABs

SHARP FVDB1E

This Sharp DAB has a clock for sleeper/alarm functions, and optical digital output and a 20 station memory.
TSP £119.95

£50 OFF TSP!
£69.95
Brand New Boxed

Racks

Gale Vetro

Display your components with style on this rack! Glass Shelves Silver Finish
TSP £119.95

£20 OFF TSP!
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

www.richersounds.com

RICHER Sounds
THE UK'S BUSIEST HI-FI, HOME CINEMA & TV RETAILER

"THE CHEAPEST THERE IS"
- Q MAGAZINE

A few of these deals are limited in supply. If you are interested in any of these amazing bargains, get in quickly, because once they're gone... they're gone!

Speakers

MISSION M71i

"A thoroughly enjoyable listen and a great hi-fi bargain." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £129.95

£70 OFF TSP!
Pair
£59.95
Brand New Boxed

MISSION M73i (Beech)

"Mission have redesigned the crossover with the aim of improving bass performance." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £199.95
Exp. Feb

£100 OFF TSP!
Pair
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

MORDAUNT-SHORT Avant 902

The Avant 902s have an astonishingly realistic sound. Every strand of music is conveyed beautifully and without artifice which makes them a pleasure to listen to.
TSP £149.95

£50 OFF TSP!
Pair
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

CODA 70 mkII

The successors to the all-conquering KEF Codas are here! The '70 mkIIs are likely to win just as many fans.
TSP £249.95

£130 OFF TSP!
Pair
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

Speakers

Gale 3040 (Black)

"Gale is once again vying for the UK budget speaker crown with its new Series 30." - *Hi-Fi Choice* magazine.
TSP £199.95
(Beech finish pictured)

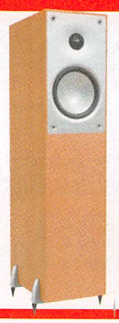
£50 OFF TSP!
Pair
£149.95
Brand New Boxed

TDL Studio 10

The TDL Studio 10s have plenty to recommend them. Powerful, yet delicate, and with more cones than an ice-cream vendor! These powerful floorstanders deserve to go to the top of your list. **TSP £399.95**

£200 OFF TSP!
Pair
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

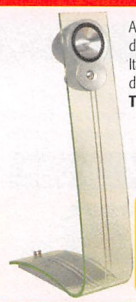
MORDAUNT-SHORT MS914



"They exhibit a big, vibrant and weighty sound... the MS914 are a steal." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £279.95
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Jul '04

£30 OFF TSP!
Pair
£249.95
Brand New Boxed

CELESTION AVF302

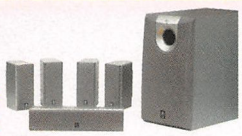


A stunning development in speaker design, the 302s use a shaped Italian tinted glass stand to house a die cast aluminium cabinet.
TSP £599.95

£300 OFF TSP!
Pair
£299.95
Brand New Boxed

Speaker Packages

YAMAHA NSP100



"The Yamaha has surprisingly good coherence...it works beautifully... at a low price, it's hard to fault" - *What Home Cinema* magazine.
TSP £129.95

£50 OFF TSP!
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

SONY SPSL2

An elegant speaker package from one of the world's leading manufacturers.
TSP £199.95

£80 OFF TSP!
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

TANNOY FX5.1

"The verdict? Superb." - *What Video* magazine.
TSP £479.95

£280 OFF TSP!
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

MORDAUNT-SHORT Premiere

The Mordaunt Short Premiere features superb sound quality for a tiny price tag.

AMAZING VALUE!
£299.95
Brand New Boxed

Home Cinema Speakers

MISSION M7C1i

CENTRE SPEAKERS
This amazing centre speaker reproduces vocals in a stunningly accurate way.
TSP £99.95

£50 OFF TSP!
SINGLE
£49.95
Brand New Boxed

MORDAUNT-SHORT MS903

REAR SPEAKERS
Bipolar rear speakers are the only choice for the home cinema enthusiast, and the Mordaunt Short Avant 903s are an exceptional example of this technology.

AMAZING VALUE!
PAIR
£149.95
Brand New Boxed

Speaker Packages

MORDAUNT-SHORT Premiere Plus

"Bold and dynamic with a surprisingly large sound" - *Home Cinema Choice* magazine.

AMAZING VALUE!
£399.95
Brand New Boxed

CELESTION AVF302/303

The Celestion pack has superstar looks and sound quality!
TSP £999.95

£500 OFF TSP!
£499.95
Brand New Boxed

MORDAUNT-SHORT Genie

Take a look at this speaker package! "Profoundly impressive at the price," said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

AMAZING VALUE!
£799.95
Brand New Boxed

Subwoofers

Gale Storm 10

The Storm 10 has a 10 inch long throw woofer, which allows it to reach down to a staggering 30 Hz!
TSP £69.95

£20 OFF TSP!
SINGLE
£49.95
Brand New Boxed

AURAL ENVELOPE Orbit

This sub has oodles of bass, and kicks like a mule! Perfect for both home cinema and hi-fi systems, this will add bags of oomph!
TSP £119.95

£40 OFF TSP!
SINGLE
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

MORDAUNT-SHORT MS309

"This terrific performer blends pace with power, depth and deftness" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.

AMAZING VALUE!
SINGLE
£229.95
Brand New Boxed

www.richersounds.com

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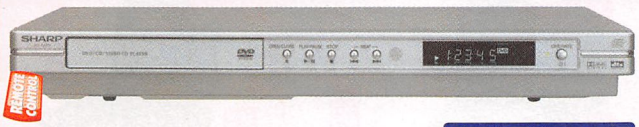
"THE CHEAPEST THERE IS" - Q MAGAZINE

TOO MANY BARGAINS!
There simply isn't space to list all our bargains here. If you can't find the model of your choice - including most WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Please contact your local store or see our website. (Store details on page 6 of this ad)

DVD Players

SHARP DVSV80



This slim line DVD player from Sharp will playback JPEG and MP3 files, and comes complete with 3D Virtual Surround Sound and a 10 bit digital to analogue convertor, so if you are on a tight budget, or simply can't resist a bargain, this is the machine for you. Come down to your local store and pick one up today!
TSP £69.95

£40 OFF TSP!
£29.95
Brand New Boxed

TOSHIBA SD140

This brand new model from Toshiba is set to win as many admirers as its bigger brother, the SD330E, which picked up no less than eight Best Buys and Awards from various magazines!
TSP £79.95

£40 OFF TSP!
£39.95
Brand New Boxed

Panasonic DVDS27

If you need a machine, but don't want to spend too much, this is definitely the player for you! *Home Cinema Choice* magazine wrote "The Panny is an excellent example of advanced DVD design."
TSP £79.95

£30 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£49.95
Brand New Boxed

DVD Players

TOSHIBA SD340

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Nov '04

"The Toshiba produces really great images: colours are vibrant, but balanced with an impressive degree of subtlety" - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £89.95

£30 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£59.95
Brand New Boxed

Cambridge Audio DVD55

"Incredible." said *Home Entertainment* magazine. While *What Home Cinema* magazine commented "This is a true bargain! You simply don't get players with this good a specification without spending at least twice as much."
TSP £199.95

£120 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£79.95
Brand New Boxed

Pioneer DV575

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★ Nov '04

"For outstanding all-round ability there are few players that can match Pioneer's DV-575A." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £149.95

£50 OFF TSP!
REGION 2
£99.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available Multi-Region for only £109.95

Cambridge Audio DVD79

The Cambridge Audio DVD79 is a state-of-the-art DVD player that incorporates a DVID output for digital information transferral to the latest generation of screens, a six channel output for connection to amps or speaker packs and will play back DiVX encoded discs.

AMAZING VALUE!
MULTI-REGION
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

DVD Recorders

TOSHIBA DR3

The Toshiba DR3 is able to record and play at the same time, and comes fully equipped with VideoPlus, timeslip recordings and comprehensive editing facilities.
TSP £299.95

£100 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

Panasonic DMRE65

"It's hard to see where this model could be improved… we certainly saw it as the best recorder to come our way over the past 12 months." - *What Video* magazine.
TSP £399.95

Memory Card Slot

£180 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£219.95
Brand New Boxed

Pioneer DVR420

"Fool-proof operation and a good value for hard-drive recorder." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £499.95

80 GB HARD DRIVE

£150 OFF TSP!
REGION 2
£299.95
Brand New Boxed

Also available Multi-Region for only £319.95

Panasonic DMRE85

80 GB HARD DRIVE
DVD/HARD DRIVE RECORDER

"It's not difficult to make a case for the DMR-E85. It's well-made, easy to use and pleasing on the eye." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £599.95

£270 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£329.95
Brand New Boxed

AV Electronics

Pioneer VSXC301 (Black)

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '03

"Excellent performance … the Pioneer VSX-C301S sounds as good as it looks." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £249.95

£130 OFF TSP!
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

JVC RXE5

This JVC dynamo is fully equipped with gorgeous slim line looks, and Dolby Digital II decoding, so you can get the very best sound from older recordings.
TSP £279.95

£140 OFF TSP!
£139.95
Brand New Boxed

SONY STRDE697

Featuring Dolby Digital EX and DTS-ES this 7.1 AV receiver is outstanding value for money! Check one out today.
TSP £299.95

£150 OFF TSP!
£149.95
Brand New Boxed

marantz SR4400 (Black)

"It's a highly competent design in virtually every area." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
TSP £349.95

£150 OFF TSP!
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

AV Electronics

Cambridge Audio AZUR540R

"This is the first AV receiver at the price that can genuinely be used for both films and music with equally impressive results." - *Hi-Fi World* magazine.

AMAZING VALUE!
£249.95
Brand New Boxed

Pioneer VSXC502

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Nov '04

"Effective and engaging, it combines svelte good looks with a spacious and cinematic surround sound." - WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine
TSP £299.95.

£50 OFF TSP!
£249.95
Brand New Boxed

YAMAHA RXV650

"Rich and satisfying sounding, this receiver should be at the top of the list." - *What Video* magazine.
TSP £469.95

£200 OFF TSP!
£269.95
Brand New Boxed

Pioneer VSXAX3

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ Oct '03

"It delivers movies with majestic muscularity." said WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION magazine.
OSP £799.95

£300 OFF OSP!
£499.95
Last Few… So Hurry!

www.richersounds.com

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- Q MAGAZINE

Beat the web, save the delivery charge and take it home today!!

We check all our prices twice a week against the three biggest price comparison websites to ensure our prices are the cheapest: Check us out at **www.richersounds.com** then pop down to your local store!

Portable DVDs

Goodmans GDVD60

5" Screen

Whether you're on the beach or on a long journey, this DVD will ensure that you are never bored.
TSP £249.95

£130 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£119.95
Brand New Boxed

PHILIPS PET700

7" Screen

This is a slick performer with superb picture quality-come down to your local store and bag one!
TSP £249.95
Stocks Erratic

£80 OFF TSP!
£169.95
Brand New Boxed

Panasonic DVDLS50

7" Screen

Stuff HOT BUY

"An unrivalled combination of attractive design, visuals and portability" - Stuff magazine.
TSP £399.95

£100 OFF TSP!
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

TOSHIBA SDP1400

7" Screen
Including DELUXE car kit

"This is a well-specified and quality portable." - What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine.
TSP £399.95

£180 OFF TSP!
MULTI-REGION
£219.95
Brand New Boxed

LCD TVs

RELISYS RLT1520

15" LCD TV

Truly flat TV pictures can now be yours for an incredibly low price.
TSP £399.95
Stocks erratic

£200 OFF TSP!
£199.95
Brand New Boxed

TOSHIBA 14LV33

14" LCD TV

The Toshiba 14LV33 features NICAM sound, a sleep timer, auto set-up and Fastext. All-in-all, a groovy bit of kit!
OSP £399.95

£140 OFF OSP!
£229.95
Last Few... So Hurry!

LG RZ20LA70

20" LCD TV

This screen features a load of features to make your viewing experience as pleasurable as possible.
TSP £699.95
Expected February

£320 OFF TSP!
£379.95
Brand New Boxed

SHARP LC22SV2E

22" WideScreen LCD TV

"A hugely impressive LCD TV with cracking pictures." - *What Home Cinema* magazine.
TSP £2499.95

£1900 OFF TSP!
£599.95
Brand New Boxed

LCD TVs

PHILIPS 23PF8946

23" WideScreen LCD TV

The Philips 23PF8946 comes with NICAM stereo sound, a high definition WXGA LCD panel and plug and play installation.
TSP £899.95

£300 OFF TSP!
£599.95
Brand New Boxed

Goodmans GTV27WLCD

27" WideScreen LCD TV

A massive 27 inch screen for this crazy price is unheard of! Get yourself one of these today!
TSP £1349.95

£650 OFF TSP!
£699.95
Brand New Boxed

MITSUBISHI MD27

27" WideScreen LCD TV with DVI input
With Free Stand & Bracket

This model from Mitsubishi has superb brightness and clarity at this price, which makes it a top bargain!
TSP £1299.95

£500 OFF TSP!
£799.95
Brand New Boxed

RELISYS RLT3000 mkII

30" WideScreen LCD TV

The Relisys RLT3000 comes complete with desk top stand and matching speakers.
TSP £1899.95

£900 OFF TSP!
£999.95
Brand New Boxed

Plasma TVs

DAEWOO DP42PGB

42" Plasma Screen

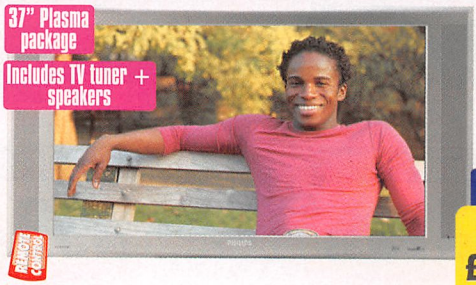
See our trade counter list of plasmas at www.richersounds.com for more plasmas at ridiculously low prices.

The Daewoo DP42PGB is a modest plasma screen with a modest price tag.
OSP £2499.95

£1500 OFF OSP!
£999.95
Last Few... So Hurry!

PHILIPS 37PF9946

37" Plasma package
Includes TV tuner + speakers



This plasma screen from one of the world's foremost manufacturers is superb!
TSP £1999.95

£800 OFF TSP!
£1199.95
Brand New Boxed

Plasma TVs

Panasonic TH42PWD6BX

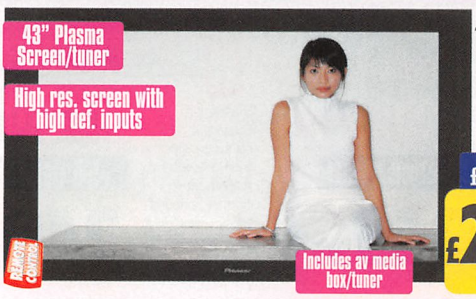
42" Plasma Screen

Save a massive amount of cash on this classy plasma! The Panasonic's performance is every bit as good as one would expect!
TSP £3499.95

£2200 OFF TSP!
£1299.95
Brand New Boxed

Pioneer PDP435FDE

43" Plasma Screen/tuner
High res. screen with high def. inputs



"Fantastic images and a thinner, sleeker look." - *Sound and Vision* magazine
TSP £3299.95

£800 OFF TSP!
£2499.95
Brand New Boxed

Please note: All our plasma screens are UK distributor's stock, and have all manufacturers full **at home** back-up and support. Do not confuse our prices with those of grey imports widely advertised by the web.

PRICE COMPARISON WARNING
- FINANCE OR SERVICE PACKAGE NOT COMPULSORY WITH ANY OF OUR PRODUCTS.

SOME OF THESE PRICES MAY BE CHEAPER THAN IN-STORE. PLEASE QUOTE THIS AD WHEN CALLING.

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"THE CHEAPEST THERE IS"

– Q MAGAZINE

A few of these deals are limited in supply. If you are interested in any of these amazing bargains, get in quickly, because once they're gone... they're gone!

Freeview Boxes

SAGEM ITD58

This Sagem freeview is a good basic machine. The ITD58 has full access to all Freeview channels, and comes with a scart socket and RF loop.

AMAZING VALUE!

£39.95

Brand New Boxed

Nicam Video Recorders

SHARP VCM705

The remote controlled Sharp may be a doddle to use but it's packed with the latest technology, including NICAM stereo sound, Sharp's Super Picture image enhancement and NTSC playback to name but a few.

TSP £99.95

£50 OFF TSP!

£49.95

Brand New Boxed

DVD/VHS Combis

LG DV8700

The DVD section plays back MP3, WMA and JPEG files as well as DVDs, and you get NICAM stereo sound on the VCR too!

Also available Multi-Region for only £89.95

SAVE £££s!

REGION 2

£79.95

Brand New Boxed

SHARP DVNC100

The DVD section will playback VCD, MP3, JPEG, CD-R and RW disks. The VCR features NICAM stereo sound and NTSC playback. You get tip top sound, pictures and facilities at this price.

TSP £159.95

£60 OFF TSP!

MULTI-REGION

£99.95

Brand New Boxed

PLEASE NOTE We quite frequently hear of our competitors (who are naturally frustrated at our prices) telling customers that the only reason we are so cheap is that our goods are either seconds, returns, stolen, secondhand etc... This is utter nonsense and simply sour grapes on their part - they must be desperate! If it were true it would be both illegal and hardly good customer relations, something we assure you we take very seriously.
A few of the products we sell are exclusive to us but this is only for proven product where we are able to purchase huge quantities, often direct from the factory, cutting out other retailers and the distributors' profit margin, thereby saving you typically 33%.
All stock is **BRAND NEW IN SEALED CARTONS** and fully guaranteed for one year unless clearly stated otherwise. We are unable to guarantee that multi-region machines will play all future disc releases. Further upgrades may be required.

TSP = Typical Selling Price
TSPs are based on information supplied by: What Hi-Fi?, Manufacturer, Hi-Fi Choice, Home Cinema Choice, T3, What Video, What DVD, Home Entertainment, Total DVD, What Hi-Fi? 'Stereo on the go' supplement & DVD Buyer. Further information available on request.

GRADED Products refer to ex-display, mail order returns or ex-service products, thoroughly tested and re-sold with a 3 month guarantee.

OSP denotes the original selling price.

LAST FEW... SO HURRY! Stocks limited/not available in all stores. Some may be ex-display or ex-repair at this price at this price (ex-display stock carries a 12 month warranty, ex-repair goods have a 3 month guarantee). Please call first if making a special journey. All stores have a clearance corner full of ex-demo/service and secondhand bargains that are guaranteed for 3 months and browsers are definitely welcome.

IF WE HAVEN'T GOT IT - WE'RE SORRY Some of these offers are end-of-line clearouts and therefore by definition finite in supply the answer is don't delay!

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We offer a bulk purchase service for businesses (or other organisations) who are looking to buy our products. We currently supply Oddbins, Carphone Warehouse, Tie Rack and many other corporate accounts from schools to hospitals. We can include delivery and we are happy to arrange account facilities where requested (subject to status). Please call Ricky or Dennis for further details on 020 7407 9090 or email: corporatesales@richersounds.com

MAIL ORDER Most lines available mail order via our website, **www.richersounds.com**

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We have, in all stores a genuine, real, kosher Trade Counter for our open box* products, where we sell thousands of items a month at our cost price or less!

How can we afford to do this? Good question. Because we have to. Our stock turns over so fast and models change so quickly in our industry that we are continually finishing lines/promotions etc and must make way for new products in our tiny stores.

This means that any small quantities of these products, including the last items/ones off display, must be cleared out as soon as possible.

To do this we have decided to slash the prices of these products to our genuine cost price or less.

At these prices, Trade Counter products are fully guaranteed for 3 months - we must be mad! But hurry, these prices are obviously unrepeatable. When they're gone, they're gone..

CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL CENTRE

Please give us a call for any customer service queries you might have:

0870 900 1000 (NATIONAL RATE)

GIFT VOUCHERS

Now available in store!

Please ask your local store for details

We accept: Credit Cards (at no extra charge) - (American Express, Visa, Mastercard), Switch/Maestro, Solo and Electron, Cheques up to £2000 (at no extra charge) Part Exchange and even Cash. (Euro + Sterling)Large ticket items, please allow time for transaction authorisation. Please note: For all large purchases, if you are paying with a credit card or cheque, please bring in 2 forms of ID, 1 with your address and 1 with a photo i.e. passport/driver's license.

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We offer a bulk purchase service for businesses (or other organisations) who are looking to buy our products. We currently supply Oddbins, Carphone Warehouse, Tie Rack and many other corporate accounts from schools to hospitals. We can include delivery and we are happy to arrange account facilities where requested (subject to status).

Please call Ricky for further details on:

020 7407 9090

Email: corporatesales@richersounds.com

Opening times vary please check or phone our Call Centre for directions.

STORE No.	BRANCH LOCATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE No.	OPENING TIMES
	LONDON STORES:			
1	BROMLEY	48 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QW	020 8466 6565	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
2	CHELSEA	258 Fulham Road, SW10 9EL	020 7352 8496	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-5PM SUN
3	CITY	RELOCATED 87-90 Houndsditch, EC3A 7NA	020 7626 8006	11-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 11-4PM SUN
4	CROYDON	42 London Road, CR0 2TA	020 8667 1100	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
5	EALING	105 West Ealing Broadway, W13 9BE	020 8566 4422	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
6	FARRINGDON	6 Farringdon Street, EC4M 7LD	020 7329 7374	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 12-5PM SATS
7	KINGSTON	72a Richmond Road, KT2 5EL	020 8549 9999	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
8	LONDON BRIDGE	2 London Bridge Walk, SE1 2SX	020 7403 1201	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS
9	SWISS COTTAGE	25 Northways Parade, College Crescent, NW3 5DN	020 7722 3359	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
10	WEST END	29 Bloomsbury Way, WC1A 2SL	020 7831 2888	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
11	BELFAST	7 Smithfield Square North, BT1 1DD	028 9032 1332	10-5.30PM MON-SAT (7PM THURS)
12	BIRMINGHAM	10-12 Smallbrook Queensway, B5 4EN	0121 643 1516	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
13	BOURNEMOUTH	543 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, BH1 4AH	01202 720 380	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS
14	BRIGHTON	54 London Road, BN1 4JE	01273 673 333	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
15	BRISTOL	143 Whiteladies Road, BS8 2QB	0117 973 4397	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
16	CAMBRIDGE	25 Hills Road, CB2 1NW	01223 304 848	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS
17	CARDIFF	106 Cowbridge Road East, Canton, CF11 9DX	029 2039 9988	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
18	CHELTENHAM	31 The High Street, GL50 1DY	01242 572 572	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
19	CHESTER	The Old George, Black Diamond Street, CH1 3EX	01244 400 102	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
20	COLCHESTER	17 Saint Botolphs Street, CO2 7DU	01206 563 131	12-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
21	EDINBURGH	1b Chambers Street, EH1 1HR	0131 226 3544	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
22	EXETER	89 Sidwell Street, EX4 6PH	01392 272 772	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
23	GLASGOW	57 Jamaica Street, G1 4NN	0141 226 5551	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
24	GUILDFORD	8 London Road, GU1 2AF	01483 449 222	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
25	HULL	55 Ferensway, HU2 8NA	01482 329 289	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS.12-4PM SUN
26	LEEDS	117-121 Vicar Lane, LS1 6PJ	0113 245 5717	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
27	LEICESTER	163 London Road, LE2 1EG	0116 255 4656	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
28	LIVERPOOL	1-5 Berry Street, L1 9DF	0151 708 7484	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
29	MAIDSTONE	21-23 Earl Street, Kent, ME14 1PL	01622 67 70 67	10-6PM MON-FRI CLOSED WEDS (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
30	MANCHESTER NORTH	415-419 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 1AA	0161 773 0333	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
31	MANCHESTER SOUTH	58 Lower Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AL	0161 480 1700	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
32	MIDDLESBROUGH	55-57 Borough Road, TS1 3AA	01642 211 115	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS
33	MILTON KEYNES	556 Elder House, Eldergate, MK9 1LR	01908 608 908	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
34	NEWCASTLE	94-96 Clayton Street, NE1 5PG	0191 230 1392	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
35	NORWICH	113-119 Ber Street, NR1 3EY	01603 620 860	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
36	NOTTINGHAM	108 Mansfield Road, NG1 3HD	0115 924 1551	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
37	OXFORD	12 Park End Street, OX1 1HH	01865 243 444	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS
38	PLYMOUTH	87-89 Exeter Street, PL4 0AH	01752 222 256	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
39	PRESTON	2 Lancaster Rd, (Church St End) PR1 1DA	01772 888 757	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
40	READING	114 Oxford Road, RG1 7NE	0118 959 1111	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
41	ROMFORD	73 Main Road, Gidea Park, Essex, RM1 5EL	01708 747 727	10-6PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
42	SHEFFIELD	130 Whitham Rd, Broomhill, S10 2SN	0114 266 1616	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
43	SOUTHAMPTON	77 London Road, SO15 2AA	023 8023 1311	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN
44	STOKE ON TRENT(HANLEY)	Unit 4, The Quadrant, Town Road, Hanley, ST1 2QD	01782 289 009	12-7PM MON-FRI (7PM THURS) 10-5PM SATS
45	WATFORD	117c St.Albans Road, WD1 1RD	01923 218 888	12-7PM MON-FRI 10-5PM SATS 12-4PM SUN

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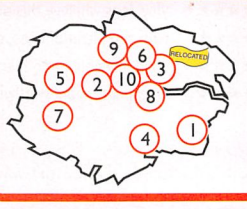

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Power amps continued...

Supplies the music muscle to the loudspeakers – just add a pre-amp

BUDGET Up to £800

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Stereo	Mono	Power (w)	Bridgeable	Phono in	XLR in	Finishes
Parasound Halo A23	750	11.02/GT	★★★☆☆	It's certainly talented, but the Halo P3/A23 power combo lacks some excitement.	●		125		●	●	Sl
Quad 99 Stereo	550	11.02/GT	★★★★★	Detail, speed, muscularity, authority and dynamics - 99 pre/power combo has the lot.	●		85		●		Sl
Roksan Caspian M series	750	12.04/FT	★★★★★	Brainstorming power amp - brings moribund recordings to life.	●		70	●	●		2

BUDGET £801 and over

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Stereo	Mono	Power (w)	Bridgeable	Phono in	XLR in	Finishes
Arcam FMJ P1	1100	09.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Two P1s fail to deliver excitement when combined with the C30 preamplifier.		●	180		●		2
Arcam FMJ P7	2600	05.03/GT	★★★★★	The P7 sounds huge and paired with the AV8 processor the combo is simply stunning.	●		7x150		●		2
Audionet Amp 1	3000	04.04/FT	★★★★★	Not cheap but combined with the Pre 1G2 preamp the sonic performance justifies the price.	●		200			●	Bl
Bryston 3B-SST	1900	09.04/GT	★★★★☆	Fine-sounding combined with the BP25 preamps, but they could do with a cosmetic update.	●		150			●	Bk
Chord Electronics SPM 1200E	5765	05.01/FT	★★★★★	The CPA 4000 preamp and this 1200E belong at the forefront of high-end amplification.	●		350		●	●	Sl
Chord Electronics SPM 600	2330	07.99/FT	★★★★★	Used with CPA 2200 preamp, the Chords are hard to beat - excel in detail retrieval.	●		130		●	●	Sl
Cyrus Mono X	1200	08.03/FT	★★★★★	The original PreX with MonoX is capable of breathtaking speed and detail resolution.		●	150		●	●	2
Cyrus SmartPower (x3)	1800	05.03/ST	★★★☆☆	Makes an affordable 5.1 channel system with the AV8 processor but it lacks oomph.	●	●	60	●	●		Bk
DNM PA3	1900	05.01/FT	★★★★★	Superlative resolution, dynamics and timing. Tested with the Reson 3C Primus preamp.	●		40			●	Bk
DNM PA3S	2900	03.99/FT	★★★★☆	Used with the DNM 3C six, merits a serious audition, but cosmetics don't impress.	●		23			●	Bk
EAR/Yoshino 861	3900	Awd.01	★★★★★	Gutsy but involving valve-amp; used with 864 preamp, it's something rather special.	●		32	●	●	●	Sl
GRAAF GM 20	3500	01.00/FT	★★★★★	Partner with 13. 5BII preamp for a truly magical valve combination. Brings music to life.	●		25	●	●	●	Bk
Krell FPB-400CX	11997	01.03/FT	★★★★★	Paired with the CD/preamp this FPB 400cx has sky-high ability to match its stellar price.	●		400			●	Bk
Linn 2250	1995	09.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Combine with the Exotik pre amp for great looks and feel - sonic abilities fall short.	●		115		●	●	2
Linn LK140	875	03.00/GT	★★★★☆	Much to like about the LK140/Wakonda combo, but it's not the most transparent around.	●		95		●		Bk
Moon W-3	3450	Awd.01	★★★★☆	Beautifully built, the P-3/W-3 combination puts long-term listenability before attack.	●		120	●	●	●	2
Myryad MXA2150	1500	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	This power amp is a real gem, the MXP2000 pre we combined it with lost it the star.	●		150				2
Myryad MXA7150/MXD6000	5900	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Sombre looking but the 7150 amp with the MXD6000 processor is a top-class performer.			7x150				SL
Naim NAP 200	1385	07.03/FT	★★★★★	Naim's pairing of this power amp with the NAC202 preamp is very tempting indeed.	●		70				Bk
Naim NAP 200 (with NAC 282)	4215	09.04/GT	★★★★☆	Delivers a music buzz that few rivals can match - paired with the NAC 282 and Hi-Cap.	●		70		●		Bk
Parasound Halo A52	1700	11.03/FT	★★★★☆	It's not cheap, but this is an excellent piece of kit with fine sound and huge appeal.	●		5x125	●	●	●	Sl
Primare A30.2	1200	01.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. With the Pre30 it has a powerful, generous sound.	●		120	●	●	●	Bk
Primare A30.5 MkII	1700	05.03/ST	★★★★☆	Good all-rounder with the SP31.7 processor but it lacks the last word in sheer brute force.	●		5x120		●		Bk
Quad 909	900	11.02/FT	★★★★★	A smart compact powerhouse that's one of those rare fit-and-forget components.	●		140		●		Sl

Quad 909

Another excellent product from the legendary British hi-fi company Quad, the 909 is a solid, compact power amplifier that delivers an outstandingly neutral tonal balance and presentation. In other words, it gets out of the way and lets your music do the talking... which is just how we think it ought to be.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION BEST IN CLASS

Roksan Caspian M-series Mono	1100	09.04/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo amp over £3000 Awards 2004. Two of these with the Caspian M-series preamp.		●	100				Sl
Rotel RB-1090	1745	07.00/GT	★★★★☆	Goes as loud as anyone could want, but it's not the most subtle (tested at £1650).	●		380		●	●	Bk
Rotel RB1080 (THX)	845	08.01/ST	★★★☆☆	The solid pair of RB1070/RB1080 is best suited to those who place power over subtlety.	●		200		●	●	Bk
Rotel RMB1075 (THX)	845	05.03/ST	★★★★★	Stunning combined with the RSP1066 processor. Impressive in stereo and with movies.	●		120x5		●		Bk
TAG McLaren Audio 100x5R:10	2995	05.03/ST	★★★★★	Great looks, bombproof build and breathtaking performance combined with the AV30R.			10x80		●		Sl
Talk Electronics Tornado 2.2	1000	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Combine with the Hurricane 2.2 power amplifier for plenty of sonic talent.	●		100				2

Phono & headphone amps

Make your amp turntable-friendly and get the best from your headphones

BUDGET Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Headphone	Phono amp	Moving magnet	Moving coil	Adj cart loading	Line level inputs	Remote	Finishes
Audio Analogue Aria	495	02.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Nicely built and cleverly engineered, but the sound isn't good enough to worry the best.			●	●	●			Sl
Cambridge Audio Azur 540P	40	02.05/FT	★★★★★	Musical and involving - another exemplary Azur product.		●	●			0		2
Clearaudio Basic Symmetry	540	02.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Certainly a decent performer, but it lacks the sonic sparkle to shine at this price point.		●		●	●			Sl
Creek OBH-21	150	04.04/GT	★★★★★	Excellent composure and finesse for the money, though you may prefer an amp with more bass.	●					1		Sl
Creek OBH-21SE	250	05.03/FT	★★★★★	An amp that sounds absolutely gorgeous with an appropriate source and set of headphones.	●					1		Sl
EarMax Pro Headphone Amp	425	06.99	★★★★★	They don't come much cuter than this valve-powered headphone amp - lust at first listen.	●					1		Bk
Ergo Amp 1	169	04.04/GT	★★★★☆	With deep bass and good pace it creates a truly thrilling listen, but there's no room for let up.	●							Bk
Graham Slee Era Gold MkV/PSU1	460	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Limited features, but it sounds wonderful. Skills usually only found only at twice the price.		●	●			0		Sl
Graham Slee Era Gld V/Elev EXP	970	Awd.04	★★★★★	This two-box combination is one of the best phono stages we've ever heard.		●	●	●		0		Sl
Graham Slee Gram Amp 1	85	04.01/GT	★★★★★	Superbly fluid and open presentation - we can't imagine anyone not liking this little star.		●	●			0		Bk
Graham Slee Gram Amp 2	125	06.02/FT	★★★★★	Great-value phono stage that will make a considerable upgrade from most in-built models.		●	●			0		Bk
Graham Slee Solo/PSU1	460	10.04/FT	★★★★★	Superb all-rounder that gets to the music's heart - deserves good headphones.	●					2		Sl
Linn Linto	995	09.97	★★★★☆	Vinyl fans will love this phono stage - it'll breathe new life into your old records.		●	●	●	●	0		Bk
Musical Fidelity X-CAN v3	250	04.04/GT	★★★★☆	With good headphones, offers sweet treble that works wonderfully well with classical pieces.	●					1		Sl
NAD PP2	50	08.03/FT	★★★★☆	Solid, likeable performer that really makes sense in the budget systems of vinyl lovers.		●	●	●		0		Gr
Naim Headline (exc. PSU)	285	07.98/FT	★★★★☆	An expensive but worthwhile headphone amplifier. The perfect partner for Naim amps.	●							Bk

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS 08456777813

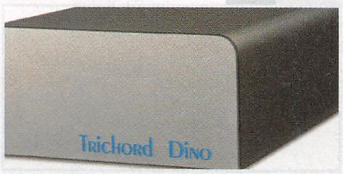
Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Phono & headphone amps continued...

Make your amp turntable-friendly and get the best from your headphones

BUDGET Up to £1000

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Headphone	Phono amp	Moving magnet	Moving coil	Adj cart loading	Line level intputs	Remote	Finishes
Pro-ject Head Box	150	04.04/GT	★★★★☆	Champion when it comes to connectivity but it's a little out-boxed on purely sonic terms.	●					2		Bk
Pro-ject Phono Box	45	04.01/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Works wonderfully - brings out the best in sub-£300 turntables.		●	●	●		0		Bk
Pro-ject Phono Box SE	125	08.02/FT	★★★★★	Fine development of the original, ideally suited to use with a wide variety of turntables.		●	●	●	●	0		Bk
Pro-ject Tube Box	300	12.03/FT	★★★★★	A valve phono stage that sounds excellent with a wide range of music.		●	●	●	●	0		Bk
QED Discsaver	35	07.97	★★★☆☆	Good-priced phono stage if you're stuck without a turntable input, but not as an upgrade.		●	●			0		Bk
Roksan Caspian	650	Awd.01	★★★★☆	Fine phonostage that performs well on all counts, but has many cheaper rivals to fight off.		●	●	●	●	0		Sl
Roksan Caspian M-Ser Phono SE	1000	02.04/GT	★★★★★	A massively talented performer that'll deliver a refined and detailed sound in the right system.		●	●	●	●	0		Sl
Sonneteer Sedley	499	06.99	★★★★★	Sparkling treble, open midband and taut bass make this phono stage a real sonic star.		●	●	●	●	0		2
Trichord Dino	299	06.01/FT	★★★★★	Best phono stage in Awards 2004. A slice of high-end performance at a very competitive price.		●	●	●		0		Bk



Trichord Dino

Trichord saw a gap in the phono market and launched the superb Dino to fill it. Cutting costs without losing quality is tricky, but Trichord managed it with some grace. Overall, the Dino manages to unearths all kinds of detail and then perform the tricky task of assembling it all into a coherent and enjoyable whole – magic!

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004

BEST PHONO STAGE

Trichord Dino

Speakers

From floorstanders to standmounters to all-in-one active monitors

BUDGET Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Standmounts	Floorstanders	Sensitivity (db/w/m)	Impedance (ohm)	Max power handling (w)	Biwirable	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Finishes
AAD S Series S1	399	Awd.03	★★★☆☆	A good-looking pair of speakers, but the performance is average at best.	●		87	8	200		34x19x32	Ch
Acoustic Energy Aegis Compact	110	07.01/GT	★★★☆☆	Compact in name and style - the lack of dynamics makes them a little lifeless.	●		88	8	100		26x16x14	2
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3	350	02.05/ST	★★★★☆	Still among our best floorstanders at the price but can lack integration.		●	90	8	150	●	88x22x19	3
Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo One	180	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2002 in their prime, but others better them now.	●		89	8	100	●	36x19x24	3
Acoustic Energy Aego 2 (sub/sat)	100	04.01/FT	★★★★★	Stereo sub/sat package for PCs and consoles but fine in a hi-fi set-up.	●		-	-	A85		3 units	2
Acoustic Energy Aelite Two	450	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Good-looking, dextrous with dynamic range to spare. Lacks bass definition.	●		90	6	175	●	45x23x30	3
ATC SCM7	499	04.03/ST	★★★★★	Reach remarkable levels of performance - they're class in a half-pint glass.	●		84	8	300	●	30.16.21	Ch
AVI Neutron IV	500	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo speakers £500-£1000 in Awards 2004.	●		87	8	150		27x15x21	3
B&W DM303	180	09.02/ST	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Now fail to match the latest competition.	●		88	8	100		33.20.24	2
B&W DM600 S3	200	08.03/ST	★★★★☆	Fantastic-looking but relaxed bass means they work best in a 5.1 system.	●		88	8	100		29x18x22	3
B&W DM601 S3	250	03.02/ST	★★★★★	Stunning speakers - evolutionary improvements on their predecessors.	●		88	8	100	●	37.20.23	3
B&W DM602 S3	300	02.05/ST	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Their appeal hasn't diminished over the years.	●		90	8	120	●	49x24x29	2
B&W DM602.5 S3	400	05.02/ST	★★★★☆	Extremely well-built entry-level speakers but they can lack bass power.		●	88	8	100	●	85x20x29	3
Bush BA2003	100	07.02/FT	★★☆☆☆	Cheap for their size, but too many compromises make them outsiders.		●	N/A	4	200		90x25x29	2
Castle Richmond 3i	320	12.04/FT	★★★★☆	Immensely likeable speakers that are worth a serious listen.	●		88.5	8	75		33x17x23	8
Cyrus CLS50	450	09.01	★★★★☆	Fabulous in most areas, but are let down by below-par bass performance.	●		86	8	100	●	25.18.27	3
DALI Concept 2	249	02.05/FT	★★★☆☆	Excel in inoffensiveness but fall short when it comes to excitement levels.	●		87	8	120		39x20x26	2
DALI Concept 6	399	07.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Have many strengths, but not talented enough to worry the class leaders.		●	91	8	150		93x20x26	2
Dynaudio Audience 42	400	05.04/ST	★★★★☆	Provide a very enjoyable listen at the price, so meriting a serious audition.	●		86	4	150		28x17x25	4
Eltax Liberty 3+	149	01.01/ST	★★★★☆	Not the most even-handed, but they are still great-sounding speakers.	●		87	6	80	●	38x21x34	2
Eltax Liberty 5+	199	03.99	★★★★★	Expressive and exciting, these are excellent speakers for the money.		●	87	6	100	●	84x20x34	2
Eltax Monitor III	129	06.00/GT	★★★★★	Compact, cohesive-sounding and strong on rhythm - a great-value buy.	●		89	6	90	●	30x19x23	2

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RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS 08456 777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

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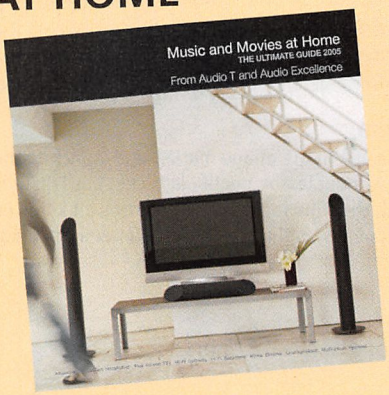
MUSIC AND MOVIES AT HOME



Our new ***"Music and Movies at Home – the Ultimate Guide"*** is hot off the press and waiting for you in store now. It's been completely revamped with a new name and new look. To get your FREE copy call in at your local store or

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www.music-at-home.co.uk

ARCAM
SOUND & VISION

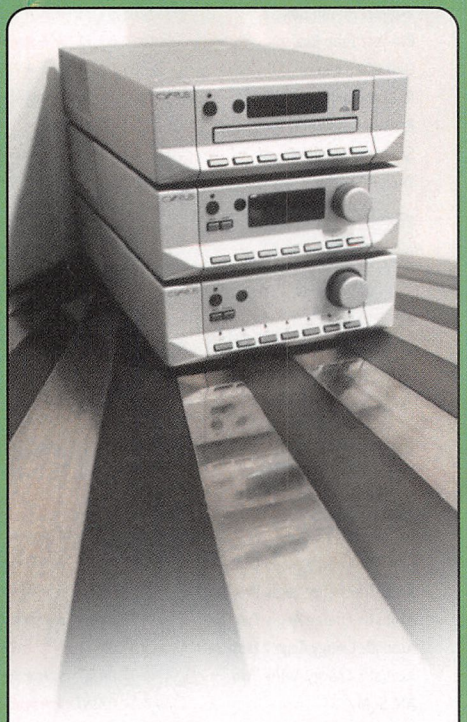
CINEMA SPECIAL

ARCAM AVR200 & DV89
Home Cinema Receiver & DVD Player

WAS	NOW	SAVE OVER
£2,099	**£1,095**	**£1,000**

Arcam DV89
"Fine PAL progressive scan picture; good with music in both CD and DVD-A formats"
What Hi-Fi? Sound & Vision, September '03

Arcam AVR200
"Here's a receiver that balances hi-fi and home cinema tastes well without compromising either"
Hi-Fi Choice, April 2002



CYRUS
Advanced Audio and Video Systems

	WAS	NOW	SAVE
CYRUS 6 Amplifier ★★★★★ May 03	£600	**£450**	**£150**
CYRUS CD8 CD player Best Buy 2003	£1,000	**£700**	**£300**
CYRUS DVD6 DVD player	£750	**£350**	**£400**
CYRUS DVD7+ DVD player	£1,000	**£450**	**£550**
CYRUS DVD8 DVD player	£1,200	**£800**	**£400**
CYRUS CLS50 black speakers	£450	**£200**	**£250**

Ex-review or Ex-demonstration models

AUDIO T & AUDIO EXCELLENCE are two of the leading specialist retailers of hi-fi and home cinema equipment. We sell exciting products guaranteed to provide you with a hi-fi or home cinema system that will thrill you for years to come.

We give independent advice, excellent deals and a level of service that keeps our customers returning year after year.

Offers valid until end of March 2005 (unless otherwise stated). Some products not available at all stores. Please call before travelling.

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Pioneer

SAVE UP TO £250

PLASMA SCREENS

PDP-435XDE 43" **£3,295**
PDP-505XDE 50" **£4,745**

TRADE IN PROMOTION UNTIL MARCH 31st 2005.
These prices include trade-in discount. Available now from all our stores.

Cabasse

How many of us can claim to have something slim, good looking, and continental in our homes? No? Didn't think so! So, here's your chance.

We have just taken on the French loudspeaker brand Cabasse. They offer a choice of beautifully styled (and sounding!) home cinema loudspeaker packages at some very nice prices.

25 - 27 Feb

SOUND & VISION
THE BRISTOL SHOW

The run up has already begun for the next show which will be taking place on Friday 25th – Sunday 27nd February at the Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel. Already long established as the UK's premiere hi-fi and home cinema exhibition, the next show promises to be as big an extravaganza as in previous years with over 154 brands booked to exhibit. For the very latest details on the event visit
www.bristolshow.co.uk

SHARP

PROJECTOR SUPER DEAL

SAVE £600

SHARP XV-Z10 projector
4 x 3 or 16:9 home cinema projector (1000ANSI Lumens, component input, lens shift and ultra quiet 32dB operation)

Usually £1,295.00
Our Price **£695.00**

NEW

SHARP LC-32GA5E 32" widescreen LCD TV **£1,499**

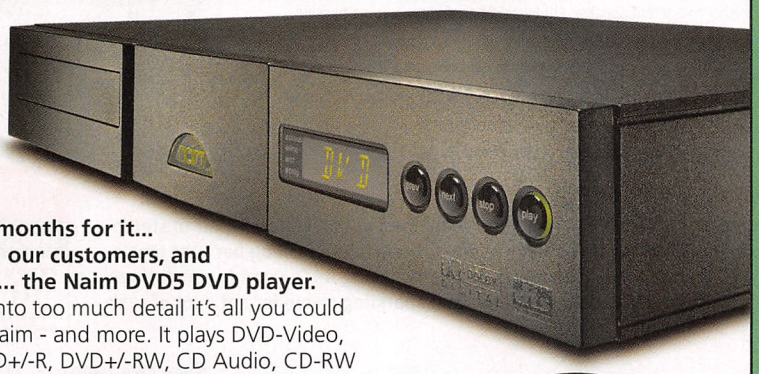
SHARP LC-26GA5E 26" widescreen LCD TV **£1,099**

TANNOY arena

Arena is a radical new home cinema speaker system from Tannoy. Blending form and function, this beautifully crafted speaker system offers much more than just gorgeous styling. The satellite speakers bring together Tannnoy's renowned Wideband expertise into a brand new miniature (5") version of their world famous Dual Concentric drive unit. Whilst Arena's powerful 300 Watt subwoofer delivers tremendously controlled low frequency acoustics and integrates impeccably to deliver an outstanding home cinema performance.

Arena comes in a choice of stunning high gloss bronze, silver, white or black.

NAIM DVD 5 DVD PLAYER ARRIVES...



We've waited months for it... and so have all our customers, and at last it's here... the Naim DVD5 DVD player. Without going into too much detail it's all you could hope for from Naim - and more. It plays DVD-Video, DVD-Audio, DVD+/-R, DVD+/-RW, CD Audio, CD-RW and CD-R... call in now to your nearest Naim stockists for a demonstration.

naim

PRICE PROMISE

WE KNOW YOU WON'T FIND BETTER SERVICE.

WE KNOW YOU WON'T FIND BETTER SOUND.

BUT IF YOU FIND A BETTER DEAL FROM ANOTHER AUTHORISED SHOP, LET US KNOW AND AS LONG AS WE CAN VERIFY IT WE'LL BE HAPPY TO MATCH IT.

Offers valid until end of March 2005 (unless otherwise stated). Some products not available at all stores. Please call before travelling.

Speakers continued...

From floorstanders to standmounters to all-in-one active monitors

BUDGET Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Standmounts	Floorstanders	Sensitivity (db/w/m)	Impedance (ohm)	Max power handling (w)	Biwirable	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Finishes
Energy Connoisseur C3	350	05.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Well made stylish speakers with good timing and rhythm but brash treble.	●		92	8	125		39x20x29	2
Epos ELS3	200	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	Speedy and rhythmic but lack reach at either end of the frequency range.	●		87	4	100		27x18x20	3
Epos M5	349	02.05/ST	★★★★★	Trustworthy speakers with a list of talents as long as your arm.	●		87	4	100	●	33x17x21	3
Gale Gold Monitor	90	02.02/GT	★★★★☆	Decent buy if you're on a budget - match them with smooth-sounding kit.	●		88	6	90	●	27x18x18	2
Gale Silver Monitor	80	07.01/GT	★★★☆☆	Good and are at their best with rock, but watch out for peaky treble.	●		88	6	90	●	27x18x17	2
Heybrook HB1 2000	180	09.02/ST	★★★★☆	Classy and can be sublime with classical music. Not for Rock and Dance fans.	●		90	6	75	●	38x21x24	2
Heybrook HB2	230	11.00/FT	★★★★☆	Fine dynamics and scale, but not quite as balanced as the competition.	●		90	6	100	●	43x24x29	2
Heybrook HB3	350	05.02/ST	★★★★☆	Will appeal to those who place refinement and definition above all.		●	90	6	100	●	90x24x29	2
Heybrook HB4	500	03.01/ST	★★★★☆	Capable speakers that excel with voices but are too polite, so lack sparkle.		●	90	6	150	●	100x24x29	2
Heybrook Point Five	130	01.01/ST	★★★★★	Superb value for money, they are a genuinely musical pair of speakers.	●		89	6	70	●	30x17x20	2
Jamo E805	179	09.03/ST	★★★☆☆	Small in stature and sound, but the price tag is comparatively large.	●		90	8	100	●	31x19x24	3
JMlab Chorus 706s	270	01.04/FT	★★★★☆	Offer an impressively sophisticated sound for a very reasonable price.	●		90	8	80		37x22x25	3
JMlab Chorus 707s	350	02.05/ST	★★★★☆	Imposing in many ways - audition if your tastes run to the forceful.	●		92	8	110		49x24x30	3
JMlab Chorus 714s	420	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Deeply impressive on every level. The 714s are clear winners in their class.		●	91	8	90		90x20x27	3
JPW 201	119	02.02/GT	★★★★☆	Fine-looking tiny speakers with a more than acceptable sound at the price.	●		90	6	60		26x15x24	2
JPW 202	159	03.02/ST	★★★★☆	Solid performers but don't have the talent to worry the class leaders.	●		91	6	80	●	38x21x30	2
JPW Millennium ML 310i	120	10.99/ST	★★★★☆	A fine budget speaker design, with a pleasant and engaging sound.	●		89	6	70	●	31x18x17	Bk
JPW Millennium ML 510i	150	06.00/ST	★★★★☆	Pleasant, listenable speakers with fine rhythmic ability, but they lack detail.	●		89	6	70	●	33x22x20	2
KEF Cresta 10	130	09.03/ST	★★★☆☆	They're cheap, but KEF can do much better than these disappointments.	●		90	8	100	●	31x19x24	3
KEF Cresta 30	200	12.03/FT	★★★☆☆	A better bet than the Cresta 10s, but the series is a disappointment.		●	90	8	100	●	83x19x24	3
KEF Q1	250	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Highly enjoyable speakers provided they're set up well and driven properly.	●		91	8	120	●	35x22x32	3
Linn Classik Unik	250	01.03/GT	★★★★★	With the Classik Music System they're easy to listen to and have fine insight.	●		88	8	n/a		36x32x34	2
Magnat Vector Needle 11	129	01.01/ST	★★★☆☆	Well-built, cute and certainly have sonic merits, but there's better out there.	●		89	6	50		22x13x15	3
Magnat Vintage 120	349	12.01/ST	★★☆☆☆	Look brilliant, but disappoint with a ham-fisted sonic performance.		●	91	4	150	●	97x20x32	2
Magnat Vintage 420	499	05.02/ST	★★☆☆☆	Well built but poorly balanced speakers - there are more attractive options.		●	92	4	280	●	100x25x31	4
Mission 780SE	350	07.03/GT	★★★★☆	Victims of rapidly improving competition - still good, no longer outstanding.	●		87	8	150	●	28x17x27	Ald
Mission m31i	140	12.04/GT	★★★★★	We fully endorse the 'i' for 'improved', these are great little speakers.	●		88	8	75	●	26x17x28	3
Mission m32	170	12.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Capable speaker, but in the face of classy competition it comes up short.	●		90	8	100	●	32x20x33	3
Mission m34i	330	02.05/ST	★★★★☆	Grand, imposing sound - if you must have a floorstander listen to these.		●	93	8	150	●	25x20x33	3
Mission m51	300	07.02/FT	★★★☆☆	Look, and sound, big and bold. They're not the most refined around.	●		87	8	100	●	32x21x35	3
Mission v60	250	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	We like these a lot, but some of the magic of older designs isn't there.	●		86	8	100	●	30x18x24	3
Mission v62	500	08.03/FT	★★★★☆	Promising start for Mission's Volare range - good value and do little wrong.		●	88	8	100	●	89x21x33	3
Monitor Audio Bronze B2	200	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Well built, refined, sweet and very musical.	●		90	6	100	●	35x19x25	2
Monitor Audio Bronze B4	350	02.03/GT	★★★★☆	Exciting and muscular listen, but not the most faithful reproduction on offer.		●	91	6	150	●	85x19x26	2
Monitor Audio Silver S5	450	05.04/ST	★★★★☆	Fine speakers, but don't do enough to challenge for class honours.		●	90	6	100	●	80x18x20	4
Mordaunt-Short Avant 902	150	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Authority and scale in abundance, but they're decidedly average in other ways.	●		89	8	100	●	29x17x27	2
Mordaunt-Short Avant 906	350	05.04/ST	★★★★☆	Thrive in large open spaces but not the last word in sonic excellence.		●	90	4-8	150	●	85x17x30	2
Mordaunt-Short MS912	200	09.02	★★★☆☆	Disappointing design which is average with h-fi but better with movies.	●		89	6	150	●	36x21x30	2
Mordaunt-Short MS914	250	07.04/GT	★★★★★	Cracking value for money - refreshingly uncomplicated, full of enthusiasm.		●	89	6	150	●	90x21x27	2
NHT SB2	300	02.05/ST	★★★★☆	Among the most enthusiastic speakers around, only drawback is the treble.	●		92	8	150	●	95x20x33	3
Opera Mini	495	08.04/GT	★★★★☆	Italian and beautiful - deliver a lively and entertaining sound.	●		86	8	50		28.16.21	2
Quad 11L	379	05.04/ST	★★★★★	Best stereo speakers £250-£500 in Awards 2004. Sky-high standard.	●		86	6	100	●	33x19x24	4
Quad 12L	500	11.03/GT	★★★★★	Stunning - massively transparent but a joy with the right kind of kit.	●		88	6	125	●	35x21x25	4
Quadral Maxi 300	145	11.02	★★☆☆☆	They're stylish and very well built, but sonically they're unremarkable.	●		87	8	150		20x13x13	3
Revolver R33	499	04.03/ST	★★★★☆	Highly competent standmounters, not ideal if you value excitement above all.	●		89	8	100	●	39x21x28	Mp
Revolver RW16	399	05.04/ST	★★★★☆	Immensely likeable - take a longer listen than normal to get hooked.	●		90	6	100	●	34x18x23	2
Richard Allan Minette 2	149	04.97	★★★★☆	Now back at their original bargain price, offering plenty of bass for the cash.	●		89	8	100	●	30x16x20	Gy
Ruark Acoustics Epilogue II	345	08.02	★★★★☆	Mightily appealing with classy build and fine midrange - warrant an audition.	●		87	8	100	●	27x19x23	Va
Scandyna Minipods	350	06.00/FT	★★★☆☆	Fun and stylish, but for the serious audiophile they lack detail and dynamics.	●		90	4	100		34x21x22	Va
Tannoy Fusion 1	100	08.04/FT	★★★★☆	Classy and largely capable - if cash is tight then these are a solid buy.	●		87	8	70		30x17x22	2
Tannoy Sensys DC1	449	07.03/FT	★★★★☆	Highly competent speakers, but would benefit from a more passion.	●		88	8	110	●	41x21x29	3
Triangle Comete Es	495	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Exciting and involving but not what you'd call a relaxing listen.	●		91	8	80	●	17x14x13	3
Wharfedale Diamond 8.1	120	09.03/ST	★★★★☆	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Neat solution for small listening rooms.	●		86	6	100	●	30x20x18	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.2	150	02.04/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive but they are no longer a match in this highly competitive field.	●		86	6	100	●	36x21x26	2
Wharfedale Diamond 8.3	200	12.01	★★★★★	Terrific performers for the money. Few can match their all-round abilities.		●	86	6	100	●	80x21x26	2
Wharfedale Diamond 9.1	180	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Stereo speakers Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	●		86	6	100	●	30x19x28	4

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456 777813

Wharfedale Diamond 9.1

Twenty quid change from £200 and you're blessed with a fantastic pair of stereo speakers. You might say these have been 20 years in the making because that's how long Wharfedale has been updating and tweaking its Diamonds – and rough they are not! Tight bass, clear midband, and sparkling treble for not a lot of cash.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
STEREO SPEAKERS
WHARFEDALE DIAMOND 9.1

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Speakers continued...

From floorstanders to standmounters to all-in-one active monitors

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Standmounts	Floorstanders	Sensitivity (db/w/m)	Impedance (ohm)	Max power handling (w)	Biwirable	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Finishes
BUDGET Up to £500												
Wharfedale Diamond 9.4	300	02.05/ST	★★★☆☆	Can't hold a candle to their little brother - they're a plodding, unexciting listen.		●	86	6	120	●	85x22x30	2
Wharfedale Pacific Evo 10	320	07.03/GT	★★★★☆	Loads of bass for the money but they lack the sparkle of the best at this price.	●		87	6	150	●	38x23x34	3
Wharfedale Pacific Evo 20	450	06.03/GT	★★★★☆	With more control and detail they'd win full marks. Position away from walls.		●	87	6	150	●	85x23x34	3
BUDGET £501 to £1500												
AAD E-48	595	03.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Slick-looking and well-constructed and offer decent value for money.		●	90	8	150	●	108x13x31	2
Acoustic Energy Aelite Three	750	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Big, bold and balanced speakers for sensible money.		●	89	8	175	●	92x23x30	3
Arcaydis AK3	599	07.03/FT	★★★★★	Highly enjoyable; look plain and boxy but sound sweet and full-bodied.		●	89	8	100	●	79x20x24	Va
Arcaydis AK3.2	950	06.04/FT	★★★★☆	Spritely pair of floorstanders that should certainly be worth an audition.		●	89	8	100	●	90x20x24	3
ART Skibo	800	08.03/FT	★★★★☆	Fast and fun enough to make these speakers worth a serious listen.	●		90	8	n/a		44x19x25	2
ATC SCM12	1000	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2003. Extremely honest, work best with muscular amps.	●		84	8	300	●	39.22.26	Ch
Audio Note AZ-Three	799	10.01	★★★★☆	Stunning when fed the right kind of music. Rockers may find they lack punch.		●	94	6	100	●	100x28x32	Va
AVI Pro-Nine-Plus	800	06.03/ST	★★★★★	Exceptional sound quality and solid build - put them on the shortlist.	●		90	8	250		34x23x24	2
B&W 704	1400	03.04/GT	★★★★★	Offers detail and clarity that is unrivalled at this price, but could time better.		●	90	8	150		96x22x32	5
B&W 705	900	12.03/GT	★★★★☆	Low end is a little short of authority but otherwise they're stunners.	●		89	8	120	●	42.22.32	5
B&W DM603 S3	600	08.02/FT	★★★★☆	Highly listenable - big bass makes them ideal as home cinema fronts.		●	90	8	150	●	91.20.29	3
Castle Conway 3	950	10.02/ST	★★★☆☆	Promise much, don't have the sonic ability to challenge the best at this price.		●	88	8	175	●	91x22x27	9
Castle Harlech S2	1100	10.01	★★★★☆	Good-looking and well-built, they really deliver on speed and resolution.		●	89	8	150	●	94x20x32	9
Castle Howard S3	1450	08.01/FT	★★★★☆	Excellent craftsmanship and solid performance. Well worth an audition.		●	88	8	175	●	99x21x32	9
Castle Pembroke	550	08.00/FT	★★★★☆	Fine-looking and well-built, but they lack that last ounce of sparkle.		●	88	8	75	●	73x19x21	9
Dali Evidence 470	1100	04.00	★★★★☆	Slightly flat sound but deliver plenty of information and look stylish.		●	90	4	200	●	97x23x31	3
Dali Royal Menuet II	781	10.00	★★★★☆	Refined and musical performers that work best in smaller rooms. Superb.	●		86	4	100	●	26x16x19	4
Diapason Emera	875	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Capable of impressive performance, but they lack dynamics and drive.	●		89	8	130		37x20x29	3
Dynaudio Audience 52	650	11.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Classy and will grace any mid-price set up.	●		86	4	150		33.20.26	4
Dynaudio Audience 52SE	950	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Excellent speakers that really do sound like a special edition upgrade.	●		86	4	150		35x20x26	4
Elac FS207.2	1000	09.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Decent performers for the money, but not the greatest.		●	89	4	250	●	94x17x27	2
Energy Connoisseur C-7	900	04.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Do the job, but for this kind of money you can buy some amazing speakers.		●	93	8	200		97x17x39	2
Epos M15.2	699	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	Accomplished all-rounders, offering solid performance at a reasonable price.		●	88	8	100	●	80x20x25	3
Ethos Acoustics LS5/12B	1495	07.00/GT	★★★★☆	Conjure up a surprising amount of bass weight but need more soul.	●		83	8	130	●	30.19.21	Va
Everything But The Box Terra II	1500	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Unique styling which won't suit everyone, but they are extremely capable.		●	86	8	100	●	38x18x28	5
Jamo D430	629	10.03/FT	★★☆☆☆	Poor performers - just not up to the high standards of the competition.	●		88	4	140		34x21x31	3
JBL Ti2K	1400	03.00/FT	★★★★★	Terrific design that looks great - astonishing sound for under £2000.	●		88	8	200	●	42x28x42	2
JMlab Electra 906	1000	01.03/FT	★★★★☆	Technology kings, but they don't have all-round sonic ability to compete.	●		90	8	75	●	42x22x32	3
KEF Q5	600	03.03/GT	★★★★☆	Good, but more suited to a home cinema role than music reproduction.		●	91	8	150	●	84x24x32	3
KEF XQ Five	1500	05.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Aren't the sonic stars we expected - the Reference range does better.		●	90	8	150	●	101x23x30	5
KEF XQ One	750	06.03/ST	★★★★☆	Not the best, but if their style appeals we'd urge you to take a listen.	●		89	8	120	●	42x23x31	5
Linn Katan	650	09.01	★★★★☆	Involving and entertaining performers - work well with a wide range of music.	●		85	8	n/a	●	34x17x23	4
Linn Ninka	1100	10.01	★★★☆☆	Unusual shape and beautiful finish, but their performance is only average.		●	90	4	n/a	●	98x25x28	3
Meadowlark Swift	1000	06.03/ST	★★★★☆	Not the best but they have a blend of strengths that some will love.		●	89	8	n/a	●	91x18x24	3
Mission 782SE	900	06.03/ST	★★★★★	'Special edition' - possibly the most talented a grand or so will buy.		●	89	8	200	●	80x17x30	Ald
Mission m53	550	03.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Exciting with the right music but don't choose for long-term listening.		●	89	8	150	●	97x21x36	3
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 10	800	08.01/FT	★★★★★	Few speakers 36cm tall are capable of a sound with so much conviction.	●		88	8	100	●	36x20x27	4
Monitor Audio Gold Ref. 20	1499	03.01/FT	★★★★★	Immensely accomplished - fast and dynamic sound with bags of resolution.		●	89	6	150	●	93x20x30	4
Monitor Audio Silver S6	600	11.03/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive with good timing and attack, but the bass can be heavy-handed.		●	91	6	120	●	85x19x25	4
Monitor Audio Silver S8	800	03.03/FT	★★★★☆	Smart, well built and offer a wide dynamic range; bass can overwhelm.		●	91	6	175	●	90x19x27	4
Neat Elite	1275	07.00	★★★☆☆	Not bad speakers but they have too many flaws to make an impact.		●	87	8	150	●	90x20x18	2
PMC DB1	555	09.03/FT	★★★★☆	Impressive depth of bass for their size, but treble can lack openness.	●		87	8	150	●	29x16x23	Va
PMC FB1	1410	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Dynamic and exciting loudspeakers that just lack top-end refinement.		●	90	8	150	●	100x20x30	Va
PMC GB1	1000	09.04/FT	★★★★☆	Plenty to like, including almost bottomless bass, but treble can be excitable.		●	87	8	150	●	87x16x23	3
PMC TB2	700	Awd.01	★★★★☆	Great speakers, wonderful integration, but slightly lacking in bass dynamics.	●		90	8	150	●	40x20x30	Va
ProAc Studio 125	999	06.03/ST	★★★★☆	Best Buy in Awards 2000. A solid buy, but no longer at the cutting edge.		●	89	8	150	●	92x28x20	Va
ProAc Tablette Reference 8	699	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Great speakers that can entertain like few others at this price.	●		86	8	100	●	27x15x23	4
Quad 22L	895	12.03/FT	★★★★☆	Another impressive L series speaker - they sound best in a large room.		●	89	6	200	●	87x21x28	4
Ruark Acoustics Etude	650	04.03/ST	★★★★☆	Much to like - good timing, refined midrange and an exciting listen.	●		87	8	120	●	34x21x27	4
Ruark Acoustics Prelude II	900	10.02/ST	★★★★☆	Tempting propositions, the performance promises years of enjoyment.		●	88	8	120	●	88x21x22	Va
Scandyna Minipods/Bass-Station	900	04.02/FT	★★★☆☆	Minipods with an active sub - expensive on 'sound per pound' grounds.	●		90	4	100/A75		3 units	Va
Sonus Faber Concertino Home	599	08.04/GT	★★★★☆	Beautifully made in wood and leather and they are lovely to listen to.	●		88	6	150		32x22x29	2
Sonus Faber Concerto Home	999	07.01/FT	★★★★☆	Major on insight, worth sympathetic partnering on the basis of sound.	●		88	6	200		36x24x32	2
Spendor S3/5se	850	12.03/GT	★★★★☆	Wonderfully natural-sounding, expecially useful for smaller rooms.	●		84	8	125	●	30x17x19	2
Spendor S3e	795	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Terrifically capable though understated performers.	●		86	8	125	●	34x17x26	4
Spendor S5e	1095	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Best stereo speakers £1000-£2000 in Awards 2004.		●	87	8	200	●	79x17x26	4
Spendor S6e	1495	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Thoroughly enjoyable, great choice for long listening sessions.		●	88	8	250	●	88x19x30	4
Spendor SR5 (wallmount)	1000	06.03/FT	★★★★★	Wallmounts - sacrifice nothing in sonic performance to traditional speakers.	●		88	8	125	●	31x31x18	4

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···›

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★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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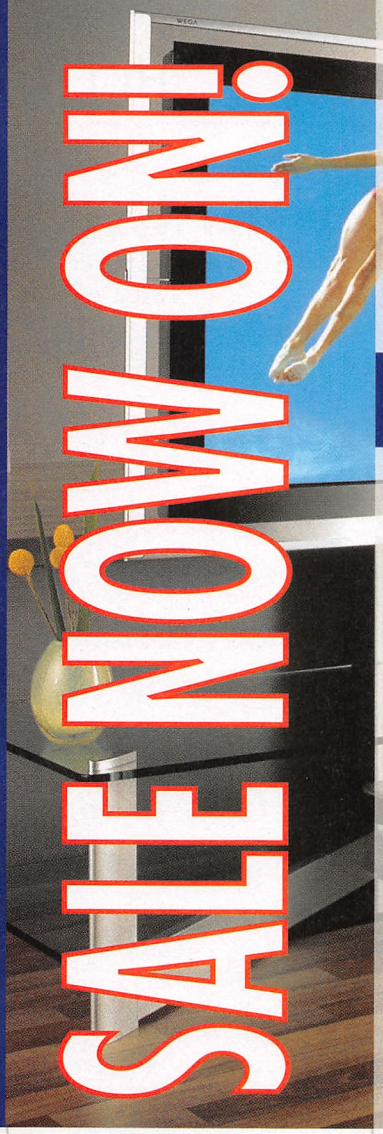

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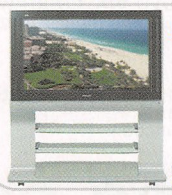

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SONY RDRHX900	...£PHONE
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JVC DRM10	...£PHONE
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- BOSE® link networking
- Five Jewel Cube® speaker arrays, hideaway ACOUSTIMASS® module.

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BOSE Lifestyle 38II

DVD home entertainment system

- uMusic™ system stores and automatically organises up to 200 hours of digital music on its HDD
- ADAPTiQ® audio calibration system
- BOSE® link networking
- Five Direct/Reflecting® cube spkr arrays, ACOUSTIMASS® module.

12 Months Interest Free Credit on all BOSE SYSTEMS **£PHONE**

BOSE Lifestyle 28II

DVD Home Entertainment System

- ADAPTiQ® system technology
- BOSE® link network
- Five DIRECT/REFLECTING® cube speaker arrays blend into your decor.
- The hideaway ACOUSTIMASS® module delivers the clarity of pure bass reproduction

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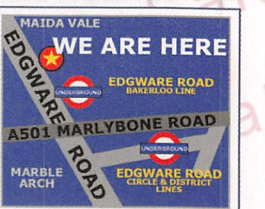
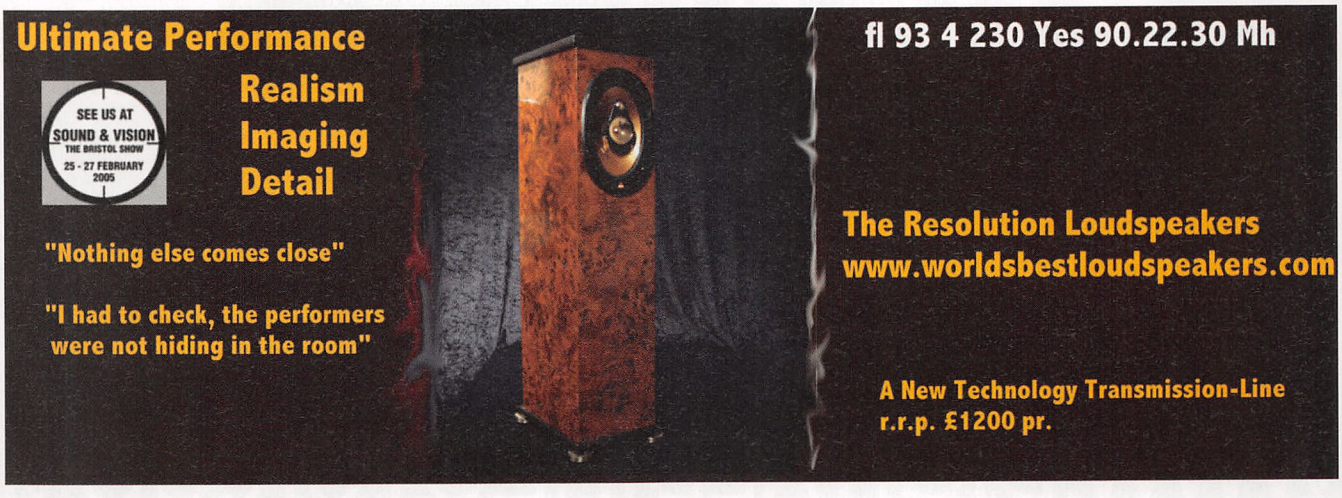


Speakers continued...

From floorstanders to standmounters to all-in-one active monitors

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Standmounts	Floorstanders	Sensitivity (db/w/m)	Impedance (ohm)	Max power handling (w)	Biwirable	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Finishes
BUDGET £501 to £1500												
Tannoy Eyris 1	600	04.03/ST	★★★☆☆	Eye-catching design, but their cold character will leave you unmoved.	●		88	8	75	●	36x17x26	2
Tannoy Eyris 2	1000	02.02/FT	★★★★☆	Fine buy, combining refined sound, solid build and excellent finish.		●	89	8	125	●	91x17x26	2
Tannoy Sensys DC2	649	11.03/GT	★★★★☆	Serious floorstander option - take care with aggressive or bright-sounding kit.		●	89	8	175	●	97x21x29	3
Tannoy ST50 (SuperTweeter)	600	12.02/FT	★★★★★	Super-high-frequency speakers, designed to sit on your existing pair.			93	8	200		15x10	Bk
Vienna Acoustics Haydn	650	09.01	★★★☆☆	Belting build and great with classical but they lack the boogie factor.	●		89	6	180		34x17x25	6
Vienna Acoustics Schönberg	1500	03.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Good looking, but sonically more suited to home cinema than hi-fi.		●	91	4	200		105x27x9	Al
Wharfedale Pacific Evo 30	650	11.03/GT	★★★★★	Fantastic value - space-hungry but you'll be stunned by the dynamics.		●	89	6	200	●	88x23x40	3
BUDGET £1501 and over												
Acoustic Energy AE1 MkIII	1990	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Best stereo speakers over £2000 in Awards 2004. Incredible performance.	●		87	8	200		31x19x25	3
ART Expression (+stands)	4000	10.02/FT	★★★★☆	Terrific speakers that can unravel a recording with ease. Deserve shortlisting.	●		88	8	100		42x20x30	Va
ART Skibo/Skibo bass module	1600	08.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Transforms the Skibo into a floorstander, but it's not worth the extra £800.		●	90	8	n/a	●	108x22x28	2
ATC Active 20	3251	11.03/FT	★★★★★	Top class active speakers - a stunning blend of insight, dynamics and timing.	●		84	8	300	●	30.16.21	Ch
ATC SCM35	1999	03.04/GT	★★★★★	Scintillating - following a design blip the SCM35s are back with a vengeance.		●	85	8	300	●	88x23x30	2
B&O Beolab 8000	2298	01.03/GT	★★★★☆	Tall, slender and organ-piped shaped - fine with BeoSound 9000 system.		●		-	A80		132x15x15	Al
B&O BeoLab5	10000	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	Work equally well as sculpture as they do speakers - gratify on every level.		●	-	-	2500		97x49dia	Bk
B&W 703	2000	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Teetering on the brink of greatness but can't quite muster overall coherence.		●	90	8	200	●	101x23x36	5
B&W Signature 805	2500	02.03/FT	★★★★★	Worth every penny - one of the most impressive B&W designs we've heard.	●		88	8	120	●	42x24x34	2
Beauhorn B2	3575	03.02/FT	★★★★☆	Stunning horn speakers, the odd design has many strengths. Were £2445.	●	●	98	8	30		120x34x67	2
Beauhorn Virtuoso Reference	7800	08.00/FT	★★★★☆	In some respects they approach the status of true genius. Were £6970.		●	106	8	30		104x34x67	2
Cyrus Icon X4	2700	11.02/FT	★★★★☆	Prove that flat-panel technology can compete with conventional speakers.		●	84	6	150	●	125.34.30	Mp
DALI Helicon 300	1980	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	If you listen to acoustic, classical or vocal-based music you'll love these Dalis.	●		86	4	200	●	44x21x36	2
Dynaudio Audience 72SE	1750	01.05/FT	★★★☆☆	Quality speakers, but they lack the of refinement of others in this price range.		●	86	4	230		96.20x26	4
Dynaudio Audience 82	1700	03.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Will please the bass-heads, but for pure hi-fi perfomance look elsewhere.		●	86	4	300		106x22x36	4
Eclipse TD 512	1750	05.02/FT	★★★★★	Partnered with the A502 amp they make a great package.(Tested at £2350).	●		81	6	30		29x37x36	Bk
Eclipse TD 712z	4000	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	Remarkable, will bring uncompromised musicality into your living room.	●		83.5	6	70		98x35x38	Sl
Energy Veritas 2.3i	2400	02.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Solid build, but they aren't as dynamic as the class leaders at this price.		●	90	8	200		103x22x36	2
Ferguson Hill FH 001	9950	07.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Stunning looking acrylic horn speakers - shame about the performance.		●	100	8	30		165x92x75	Ac
Harbeth Super HL5	1999	05.03/FT	★★★★★	Lookers they're not - but when they sing, few rivals can match them.	●		85	8	150	●	64x32x30	2
JBL Ti6K	2600	09.02/FT	★★★★☆	Stylish speakers with some strong qualities but they lack cohesion.	●		90	6	300	●	110x38x53	2
KEF Reference Model 203	3000	09.02/FT	★★★★★	Excellent - superb all-round sonic performance and fine build and finish.		●	89	8	200	●	107x25x41	3
Meridian DSP33	2595	10.00/FT	★★★★☆	Actives with D/A conversion: terrific concept that works extremely well.	●		n/a	n/a	A50/85		40x15x23	Bk
PMC IB1	4815	04.01	★★★★★	Revealing and enjoyable in equal doses and will please the bass fiends.	●		89	4	500	●	74x33x47	Va
PMC OB1	2450	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2003. Spectacular, controlled and highly musical.		●	87	6	300	●	103x20x33	3
ProAc Future 0.5	3500	06.02/FT	★★★★★	Look a little odd, but these are stunning, front ranking speakers at this price.		●	87	8	150	●	101x44x22	5
ProAc Response D15 (yew)	1970	11.02/FT	★★★★★	Musically involving presentation and superlative build - take a long listen.		●	88	8	180	●	98x19x25	7
Quad ESL-988	3500	12.00/FT	★★★★★	World class - the single driver presents a fabulously together sound.			86	8	n/a		94x67x32	Bk
Sonus Faber Cremona Auditor	2149	02.04/FT	★★★★★	Delightful, with a graceful sound that'll pamper your ears hour after hour.	●		88	4	250		35x19x32	2
Spendor S8e	1895	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Hugely enjoyable listening experience, but lower frequencies fail to convince.		●	89	8	300	●	92x23x32	4
Spendor SP2/3E (classic)	1750	07.00	★★★★★	Will delight with their combination of naturalness, insight and scale.	●		88	8	80	●	54x27x32	2
Wilson Benesch Arc	2400	02.02/FT	★★★★★	The very best of Wilson Benesch speaker magic in a pint-pot design.	●		88	6	200	●	31x23x37	10
Wilson Benesch Curve	4900	02.05/FT	★★★★★	Impressive - closer than any rival we've heard to being all things to all people.		●	88	6	200	●	91x23x37	8
Wilson Benesch Discovery	5500	04.01	★★★★★	Innovative design for the music lover - appeal to the ears and eyes.		●	87	6	200	●	108x23x27	Gr



Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···>

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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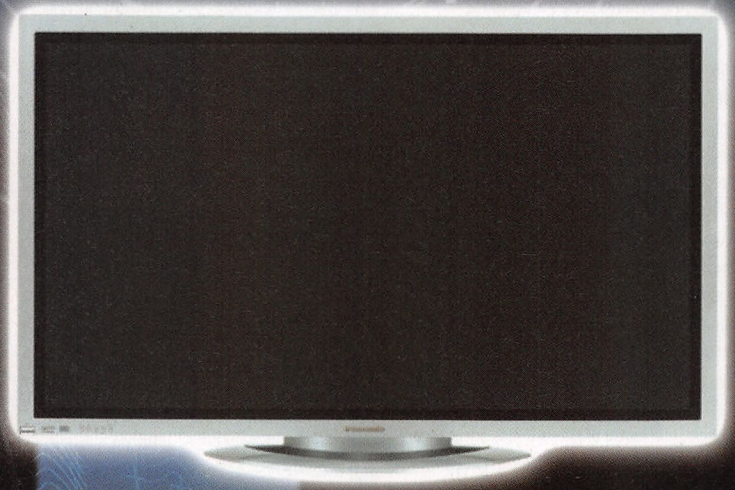

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PHILIPS 17PF9945	REDUCED
PHILIPS 20PF7835	NEW
PHILIPS 23PF9946	REDUCED
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PHILIPS 30PF9946	REDUCED
PHILIPS 32PF9986	NEW
PHILIPS 42PF9986	NEW
SONY KLV15SR2	REDUCED
SONY KLV17HR3S	REDUCED
SONY KLV20SR3	NEW
SONY KLV21SR2	REDUCED
SONY KLV21SG2	REDUCED
SONY KLV23M1	NEW
SONY KLV26HG2	REDUCED
SONY KLV27HR3	NEW
SONY KLV30HR3	NEW
SONY KLVL32M1	REDUCED
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SONY KDLL42MRX1	REDUCED
SHARP LC13S1E	REDUCED
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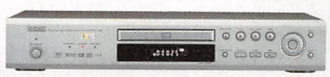

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Music in the kitchen and bedroom can sound good and look good, too

BUDGET Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	SOURCE: CD	MP3	DAB	FM	MW	LW	SW	RDS	RECORDS: MiniDisc	CD-R/-RW	MP3	Hard disk	Inputs	Speakers
Aiwa AWP-ZP5	180	01.05/FT	★★★★☆	A delightful little micro - twin USB ports, useful for playing tunes from a computer.	●	●		●	●								2	●
Bose Wave Radio/CD	395	03.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	Expansive sound for a clock radio/CD player, but it's far too expensive.	●			●	●								1	●
Bush CDP2025/AMP2025	180	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Separate CD player and amp - good value and it sounds great for the cash.	●												4	
Creative SoundWorks CD740	300	03.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Clock radio with speakers and CD player - pacy but you can get better for the cash.	●	●		●	●								2	●
Denon D-F101	450	02.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Blurs the distinction between micro and hi-fi.	●			●				●					5	●
Denon D-M31	300	03.04/GT	★★★★★	Best hi-fi micro system over £150 in Awards 2004.	●			●	●			●					2	●

Denon D-M31

Best-in class hi-fi system again this year, the D-M31 offers remarkable quality for a small unit. Backing up the oomph is a sweet midband and crisp treble, which ensure that it's a adept with rock as it is with delicate vocals. Very impressive, and worth upgrading the optional Mission-designed speakers to something better.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST HI-FI MICRO SYSTEM OVER £150
Denon D-M31

Goodmans 1104DAB	100	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Best hi-fi micro system under £150 in Awards 2004 - ideal for bedroom/kitchen.	●		●										0	●
Hitachi AX-M68D	200	12.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	A case of style over substance - the sound just doesn't match the looks.	●		●	●				●					2	●
Ministry of Sound MOSMC018	180	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	Well equipped and stylish white cube system. It even includes a DAB tuner.	●		●	●	●								1	●
Ministry of Sound MOSRC 023	100	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Stand-out boombox - we love the alternative design and the bass power.	●	●	●	●	●								1	●
Onkyo CS-210	295	09.03/FT	★★★★☆	A step above most micro system, but it can't quite match its main Denon rival.	●			●	●			●					2	●
Panasonic RX-ES27 (portable)	90	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	A good product - offers all you could ask of an entry-level portable boom box.	●			●	●								0	●
Panasonic SCEN9	180	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Impressively compact, but sadly the sound is equally as thin and lightweight.	●		●	●	●									●
Pure Digital Legato	350	11.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Does a lot of things well, but in sonic terms it can't compete with the leaders.	●	●	●	●				●					1	●
Russ Andrews RAVE (amp/spkrs)	300	09.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Mini sound system - nice idea, but you can get better performance at this price.													4	●
Sanyo MCD-ZX500F (portable)	45	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Competitively priced, but low on features and sonically a little limited.	●			●	●								0	●
Sanyo MCD-ZX710F (portable)	65	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Jack of all trades, but master of none - decent but unremarkable portable.	●			●									0	●
Sony CMT-SE1	280	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Looks great and sounds good, but not a match for the formidable Denon DM-31.	●			●	●			●						●
TEAC MCDX10	180	Awd.04	★★★☆☆	Fantastically svelte looks with lashings of style - the sound is less exciting.	●			●	●								1	●
TEAC Reference 250	300	10.04/FT	★★★★☆	Great-value option for DAB radio fans, but falls just short of a class-leader.	●		●	●	●			●					3	●
Technics SC-HD560	350	09.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Promises much, but its lacklustre performance means we wouldn't recommend it.	●			●	●			●						●
Thomson CS85	65	03.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Willing system that'll definitely suit kids - but not to be confused with real hi-fi.	●			●	●								0	●
Yamaha PianoCraft CRX/NX-E300	300	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Looks good but the performance can't compete with that of Denon's DM-31.	●			●	●			●					3	●

BUDGET £501 and over

B&O Beosound 3000/Blab 4000	2525	09.00/FT	★★★★☆	Looks guaranteed to turn heads and a performance that's pretty impressive.	●			●	●	●		●					2	●
B&O Beosound 3200	1725	07.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Style, quality engineering and a 40GB CD memory, but it is not great hi-fi.	●			●	●			●				●	1	
B&O Beosound 9000	2550	01.03/GT	★★★★☆	Guaranteed to turn heads and a performance that is impressive to boot.	●			●	●			●					1	
Cyrus Quattro FM	900	01.01/FT	★★★★★	Elegant box containing a CD, preamp and optional FM tuner - add a power amp.	●			●				●					2	
Denon 201SA	800	08.02/FT	★★★★★	Stylish, listenable mini system that sounds almost as good as it looks.	●			●	●			●					7	●
Linn Classik Music	995	04.01/ST	★★★★★	With Classik Unik speakers, a flexible system with true separates performance.	●			●	●								3	
Nakamichi Soundspace 5	799	04.00/GT	★★★☆☆	Huge style appeal but if you want to use it as your main system add a subwoofer.	●			●									2	●
Nakamichi Soundspace 8	1000	07.99/FT	★★★★☆	Product of the Year in the Awards 1999. Stylish good looks and musical.	●			●	●								3	●
Nakamichi Soundspace 9	3299	06.02/GT	★★☆☆☆	'Wow' designer looks, but the sound quality is a distinct letdown at the price.	●			●	●								3	●
Red Rose Spirit IA1 LS1	1999	12.02/FT	★★★★☆	Minimalist amp and small speakers - good sound for the house-proud muso.													4	●
Sugden Master System	2647	05.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. It has it all: looks, build and sonic talent.	●												2	
T+A K1	1700	01.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	Eye-catching, but fails to deliver the sort of sound we'd expect for this price.	●			●				●					2	
TEAC Reference 300	600	03.98/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Gorgeous looks, terrific build and great sound.	●			●	●			●					6	
TEAC Reference 500	800	09.99/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Superior build and sound mean it's still a winner.	●			●	●			●					6	

Speaker cables

One of the most cost-effective system upgrades – ever

BUDGET Up to £7/m

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	CONDUCTOR: Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Diameter (mm)	Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Termination	Directional	Biwire
Atlas 2+1.1	5.50	11.03/GT	★★★★☆	Not the most exciting-sounding cable, but it is sensible value for money.	●			8.5	●				40	●	
Atlas Basic Biwire	3.75	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Cracking entry-level cable that offers a neutral balance.	●			2x7	●						●
Audioquest Type 4	6	10.01/GT	★★★★☆	Smooth and refined presentation - ideal to help soften aggressive systems.	●			8.0	●					●	
Black Rhodium AST 200	6	05.98/GT	★★★★★	Remarkably expressive listen: full of energy, it gives powerful bass.	●			8.0	●						
Black Rhodium T200	4.75	09.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Eminently suitable for rear speakers but don't use in a stereo system.	●		●	6.0	●						
Black Rhodium T90	5	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Thin spaghetti-like cable that delivers a fast, agile and cohesive sound.		●		2.8	●	●					
Chord Company Carnival	3	02.99	★★★★★	Upfront, detailed sound - full bass, vibrant treble and excellent detail.	●			7.5	●				40	●	
Chord Co Carnival Silver Plus	5.50	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Cable Product of the Year - Chord Carnival Silver - in Awards 2004.	●			12x6	●	●			40	●	
DNM Reson MkII	6.95	05.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2000 - a blend of smoothness, power and excitement.		●	●		●					●	
Ecosse CS-2.2 Plus	2.60	09.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Designed as a first-step upgrade, certainly better than the standard stuff.	●			7.4	●				40		
Ecosse Mini Flat 4	3	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Flexible and unobtrusive - but sound is compressed and bass lacks clarity.	●		●		●				40		
Ecosse Ref Biwire CS-4.2	4.50	01.99/FT	★★★★☆	A rocker's cable, though some may find it too hot to handle.	●			9.5	●				60		

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ···›

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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PLASMA SCREENS

MAKE	MODEL
Hitachi	32PD5200
Hitachi	42PD5200
Hitachi	CMP5000WXE
JVC	AV42V31
LG	MZ42PZ44
Panasonic	TH37PA20B
Panasonic	TH42PW6B
Philips	32PF9965C
Philips	37PF9965C
Philips	42PF9945C
Philips	42PF9965C
Pioneer	PDP433MXEV
Pioneer	PDP433HDE
Pioneer	PDP434HDE
Pioneer	PDP503HDE
Pioneer	PDP503MXEV
Pioneer	PDP504HDE
Samsung	PS42P3SX
Sony	KE42MR1
Sony	KE50MR1
Toshiba	42WP27
Toshiba	42WP36
Vision	PM4230

LCD TELEVISIONS

MAKE	MODEL
Daewoo	DSL17W1T
Hansol	HW1710-SIL
Hitachi	17LD4200
Hitachi	22LD4200
JVC	LT17E31
JVC	LT23C31
JVC	LT26C31
JVC	LT32C31
LG	RZ15LA32
LG	RZ17LZ10
LG	RZ20LA70
LG	RZ23LZ20
LG	MZ30LZ13
Loewe	MIMO15C
Loewe	SPHEROS20
Panasonic	TX14LA1
Panasonic	TX15LT2
Panasonic	TX15LV1
Panasonic	TX17LA1
Panasonic	TX20LA1
Panasonic	TX22LT3
Panasonic	TX32LXD1
Philips	15PF9936
Philips	17PF9945
Philips	23PF9945
Philips	30PF9975
Relisys	RLT1720-SIL
Samsung	LW22A13WX
Sharp	LC13S1E
Sharp	LC15L1E
Sharp	LC15S1E
Sharp	LC20B4E
Sharp	LC20S1E
Sharp	LC22AD1E
Sharp	LC22SV2E
Sharp	LC30AD1E
Sharp	LC30HV4E
Sharp	LC37AD1E
Sharp	LC37HV4E
Sony	KLV15SR2S
Sony	KLV15SR5
Sony	KLV21SR2
Sony	KDLL32MRX1
Thomson	27LCDB03B
Toshiba	17WL46B
Toshiba	20VL33B
Toshiba	26WL36
Toshiba	32WL36

DVD A/V SYSTEMS

MAKE	MODEL
Goodmans	HEC10
Aiwa	AVJR5
Aiwa	AVJX5
Denon	AV770
Goodmans	GDVD100R
Hitachi	K170
JVC	THA35R
JVC	THA55R
JVC	THA75R
JVC	THV70R
JVC	QP112AL
LG	DAT200
LG	LHC6235
LG	LHD6230
Panasonic	SCHT500
Panasonic	SCDT310
Panasonic	SCHT900
Panasonic	SCST1S
Pioneer	DCS222
Pioneer	HTD5
Pioneer	DCS313MR
Pioneer	DCS515
Pioneer	NSDV1000
Philips	LX3700D
Philips	LX7000DMR
Philips	LX7000SA
Philips	LX9000
Philips	MX5700D
Sanyo	DCTS760
Sony	DAVSA30
Sony	DAVSC5
Sony	DAVSC6
Sony	DAVSC8
Sony	HTP1100
Sony	HTP1900
Sony	HTR6000
Sony	HTSL55
Teac	PLD2200
Thomson	DPL915VD
Toshiba	SD43HK
Yamaha	DVXS100
Yamaha	AV75PACK

A/V SYSTEMS

MAKE	MODEL
Sharp	SDAT1000H
Sony	HTDDW750S
Sony	HTK250
Sony	HTP1500
Sony	HTP3100
Pioneer	HC51S
Pure	Platinum
Yamaha	AV25PACK

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with Virtual Dolby Surround Sound System

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- 100 Page SmartText
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- Dual Screen Function
- Digital Crystal Clear Facility

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MAINLAND DELIVERY £59.99

Panasonic DVD Home Theatre System

with Double Re-Master Function

directlinx 50D

- 500w Max. Output (RMS)
- Dolby Digital / DTS / Dolby Pro-Logic II
- Dig. Tuner with RDS Facility
- DVD-R(RW), CD-R(RW), MP3 and JPEG CD Playback

Model No. SCHT520

INSTORE PRICE*: £249.99

£179.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £10

SONY DVD Home Theatre System

with Digital Driven Dual Subwoofer

directlinx 50A

- 700w Max. Output (RMS)
- Dolby Digital / DTS / Dolby Pro-Logic II
- S-Master Digital Amplifier
- RDS FM/AM Tuner
- Easy Set-Up Graphic User Interface

Model No. DAVSR2

INSTORE PRICE*: £599.99

£379.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £10

SONY 37" 'Freeview' Widescreen Plasma

with WEGA Engine System

directlinx 507

- 94cmV Widescreen
- Virtual Dolby Sound
- Built-in Tuner, Speakers and Table Top Stand
- New ALiS Panel
- SmartLink for Easy Record
- Memory Stick Playback

Model. KDEP37XS1

INSTORE PRICE*: £3499.99

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MAINLAND DELIVERY £59.99

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with Integrated Tuner, Speakers and Stand

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- 1366 x 768 Pixel Resolution
- Digital Natural Motion
- 170 Degree Viewing Angle (Horizontal/Vertical)
- 3D Comb Filter System

Model No. 32PF9976

directlinx 509

INSTORE PRICE*: £2499.99

£1499.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £34.99

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Panasonic 42" Freeview Widescreen Plasma

with Integrated Tuner and Speakers

- 106cmV Screen
- Nicam Stereo with Smart Sound Speaker System
- 852 x 480 Pixel Resolution
- SD/PC Card Slot
- Multi Window
- Optional Stand (Pictured) Available Separately

Model No. TH42PE30B

directlinx 508

INSTORE PRICE*: £3799.99

£2399.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £59.99

SAVE £1400!

An Extensive Range Of The Very Latest Hi-fi Equipment Available!

SONY DVD Home Cinema Kit

with S-Master Full Digital Amplifier

directlinx 50C

SAVE £120!

INSTORE PRICE*: £399.99

£279.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £10

- 650w (RMS) Output
- Dolby Digital / DTS and Dolby Pro-Logic II
- 170w Dig. Direct Drive Subwoofer
- DVD-R(RW), SACD, CD-R(RW), MP3, JPEG Playback

Model No. DAVSB300

Pioneer DVD Home Cinema Kit

with Tuner with RDS Facility

SAVE £60!

directlinx 50B

INSTORE PRICE*: £229.99

£169.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £10

- 5 x 75w Speakers plus 75w Subwoofer (450w)
- DVD-R(RW), CD-R(RW), SACD, MP3 CD Playback
- Dolby Digital and DTS Compatible

Model No. DCS222

Over 110 DVD Players, Recorders and Combis Available On-Line!

Panasonic DVD Recorder

with Time Slip / Chasing Playback

directlinx 50E

SAVE £120!

INSTORE PRICE*: £309.99

£189.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £7.99

- DVD-RAM(R), CD-R(RW), MP3 CD Playback
- Up to 16 Hours Recording on a Double Sided 9.4Gb Disc
- Cinema Mode
- Direct Navigator

Model No. DMRE55EBS

SONY DVD Recorder

with Dual RW Compatibility

directlinx 50F

SAVE £100!

INSTORE PRICE*: £349.99

£249.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £7.99

- Recording on DVD-R(-RW), DVD+R(+RW)
- CD-R(RW), MP3 Playback
- Chasing Playback
- STB Synchro Record
- Auto Program Naming

Model No. RDRGX300S

SONY Micro Hi-fi System

with 100w Maximum Output

directlinx 510

SAVE £50!

INSTORE PRICE*: £179.99

£129.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £7.99

- 2 x 50w RMS (10% THD)
- CD Slot-in
- RDS FM/MW Tuner (32 Presets)
- Auto Reverse Cassette Deck
- CD-R(RW) Playback

Model No. CMTGPX5

Panasonic Micro Hi-fi System

with 140w Maximum Output

directlinx 511

SAVE £35!

INSTORE PRICE*: £149.99

£114.99 INC VAT

MAINLAND DELIVERY £7.99

- 2 x 70w RMS (10% THD)
- 5 CD Fast Changer
- CD-R(RW), MP3 CD Playback
- Single Cassette Deck
- CD-R(RW), MP3 Playback

Model No. SCPM19

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Speaker cables continued...

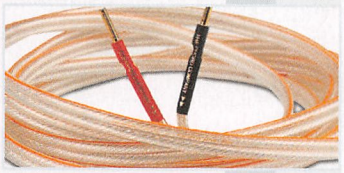
One of the most cost-effective system upgrades – ever

BUDGET Up to £7/m

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	CONDUCTOR: Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Diameter (mm)	Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Termination	Directional	Biwire
Ecosse Reference CS-2.3	3.85	01.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Ensures bass is taut and imaging is top-notch.	●			8.2	●				40		
Gale Electronics XL160-2	2.50	10.95	★★★★☆	Better than it looks, being a biwire cable with tight bass and an open sound.	●		●	20x2	●						●
Ixos XHS-606W	2.50	10.00/GT	★★★★☆	Twisted braid construction - performs well, but lacks midrange detail.	●			2x1.7	●						
Ixos XHS-706W	3.50	02.99	★★★★★	Highly Recommended in the Awards 1997. Superb wide-open-sounding wire.	●			2x2.6	●						
Ixos XHS-806W	5	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Improvement over freebie cable but others do it better.	●			2x2.6	●						
Kimber 4PR	5	05.98/GT	★★★★☆	Sounds impressively controlled and muscular - well worth an audition.	●			10	●				50	●	
Linn K20	5	02.95	★★★☆☆	Stranded cable with tight bass, open midrange and detailed treble.	●		●	4.0	●					●	
Merlin C4	2.50	09.04/FT	★★★★☆	Fine entry-level cable, most suitable for slightly warm-sounding set-ups.	●		●	11x.9	●				50		
Merlin C6	4.50	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Great-sounding cable but the build and finish is disappointing.	●		●	16	●				50	●	
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/2	5	09.02/GT	★★★★☆	Try this clear-sounding cable - you can do better in terms of sheer power.	●			6.0	●	●				●	
Origin Live Soli-core super	6.60	02.94	★★★★☆	Stiff, bulky cable best suited to biwiring. Good detail and separation.		●		15	●					●	
QED 42 strand cable	0.80	12.92	★★☆☆☆	Smooth, detailed sound but rather lightweight bass. OK on a tight budget.	●			5.4x2.7	●				45		
QED 79 strand	1.50	02.94	★★★☆☆	Will add bass weight and liven up mid and treble in budget systems.	●			8x4.0	●				45		
QED Micro Bi-wire	3.50	Awd.00	★★★★☆	Competitively priced, ideal for discreet installations. Delivers fine detail.	●			13.3x2.6	●				68		●
QED Original	2.75	04.96	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 1995. Bass is deep and controlled - was Qudos.	●			7.0x3.6	●				45	●	
QED Original Mk II Bi-Wire	5.50	10.00/GT	★★★★★	Truly excellent levels of detail and spaciousness make this cable a winner.	●			17.0x3.6	●				68	●	●
QED Silver Anniversary	5.50	05.98	★★★★★	Product of the Year in Awards 2003. Fabulous - insightful and involving.	●			7.0x3.3	●	●			45		
Supra Classic 4.0T	4	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	Solid performer at a sensible price. Detail is good rather than great.	●			4.0	●			●		●	
Supra Rondo 4x2.5	5	09.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Excellent design for biwiring applications.	●			4x2.5	●			●		●	●
Tech + Link OFC79	1.80	04.96	★★★☆☆	Good-value cable upgrade but don't expect barn-storming performance.	●			2x4	●					●	
Tech + Link SPC42/3	1.75	05.98/GT	★★★★☆	Good bass and imaging make this a fine starter cable for modest systems.	●				●						
TCI Sidewinder (biwire)	6	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	Conspicuous and colourful biwire cable. Avoid if you have aggressive kit.	●		●	2x2.5	●				5.99	●	●

BUDGET £8/m and over

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	CONDUCTOR: Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Diameter (mm)	Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Termination	Directional	Biwire
Atlas Apex	25	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	Ideal for those who don't want to further aggravate an aggressive set-up.	●			7.5	●				40		
Atlas Ascent	25	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Highly tuneful and refined, every last musical note being uncovered.	●			8.0	●				40		
Audio Note AN-Ba (stereo m)	33	10.01/GT	★★★☆☆	Smooth presentation with plenty of weight and scale but you can buy better.	●			8.0	●				33		
Audioquest Slate (3m pair)	250	04.02/GT	★★★★★	Lays bare foibles in characterful components; dazzles top-quality kit.	●			12	●				n/a	●	
Black Rhodium S130x	220	08.99	★★★☆☆	Good-sounding and detailed cable - we'd expect a more flair for the price.	●			9.0	●	●					●
Black Rhodium S300	18	10.97	★★★★★	Sounds superb with quality albums, highly revealing of poor recordings.	●			9.0	●	●					
Black Rhodium S300x2	40	10.01	★★★☆☆	Neither detail levels or finesse excel - we'd expect more for the money.	●			12	●	●					●
Chord Co Carnival Silver Biwire	9.50	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Cable Product of the Year - Chord Carnival Silver - in Awards 2004.	●			25x6	●	●			50		●



Chord Company Carnival Silver Biwire

Cable Product of the Year in our Awards 2004. The Carnival Silver speaker cable has fallen into our laps, straight from upgrade heaven. Not only does it look the part, with its neat styling and excellent finish, but it's also a clear sonic cut-above the competition - no real surprise it's our favourite.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
CABLES
CHORD CARNIVAL SILVER

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	CONDUCTOR: Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Diameter (mm)	Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Termination	Directional	Biwire
Chord Company Odyssey 2	17	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	For a vibrant and entertaining sound this is a good place for your money.	●			8.0	●	●			40	●	
Chord Co Rumour 4 Biwire	20	07.01/GT	★★★★★	Not only does it look good, but it's an impressively dynamic performer, too.	●			9.0	●	●			50	●	
Chord Company Signature	115	11.04/GT	★★★★★	One of the most effective upgrades you will ever hear if you own expensive kit.	●			25	●				inc		
Cyrus Bi-Wire	25	03.04/GT	★★★★★	Capable of performing extremely well in more than just Cyrus systems.		●	●		●						●
Ecosse CS4.4 Biwire	9	11.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Reasonable, but a long way from being outstanding value for money.	●			10	●				60		●
Ecosse ES2.3/CS2.15 biwire	17	07.01/GT	★★★★★	A combination of two different cables that sound stunning in partnership.	●	●			●				60		●
Ecosse Reference ES-2.3	12	10.01/GT	★★★★☆	Dynamics are vivid and help this cable grab the attention like few others.	●			9.5	●				40		
Ecosse Reference ES2.2	8.50	09.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Decent cable but it lacks the polished ability of the best at this price.	●			9.5	●				40	●	
Ecosse Reference MS-2.3	23	10.99/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2000. A room-filling sound that few cables manage.	●			8.2	●				40		
Kimber 4VS	9	07.98/FT	★★★★☆	Not the best at the price, but great all-round cable which works a treat.	●			7	●				50	●	
Kimber 8PR(4.5m terminated)	153	11.03/GT	★★★★★	Slightly oddball 'bundle of wire' looks - sound is direct and impressive.	●			12	●				n/a	●	
Kimber KS-3035 (3m termin.)	3735	04.99	★★★★★	Crystalline clarity, superb bass extension and control - does it all and more.	●			26	●	●			n/a	●	
Nordost 4 (flat)	12	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	Excellent detail and dynamics - presentation has a pleasing character.		●	●		●					●	●
Nordost Blue Heaven Rev II	68	10.99/GT	★★★★☆	Fantastic cable but the price becomes jaw-dropping when terminated.	●		●		●	●				●	●
Nordost Cinemaflex 14/4	10	10.01/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Neutral, impeccable precision and dynamics.	●			8	●	●				●	●
Nordost Flatline Gold MkII	12	05.98/GT	★★★★★	Highly Recommended in Awards 1998. For fine clarity and openness.	●		●		●					●	
Nordost Solar Wind	33	01.99	★★★★★	Fine separation and airy, open sound. A fantastic cable, but expensive.	●		●		●	●				●	
Nordost Superflat MkII Biwire	23	07.01/GT	★★★★☆	Fine cable in many ways - perfect for systems with overbearing bass.	●		●	0.6	●					●	●
QED Genesis	30	08.99	★★★★★	Costly, but the Genesis performs so well it's certainly worth the money.	●			16.6	●	●			45		
QED Genesis Sl Spiral Biwire	60	04.02/GT	★★★★☆	Everything simply sounds more real - in the right system it's breathtaking.	●			19.6	●	●			68		●
QED Profile 4x4	10	04.97	★★★★★	Incredibly good value, revealing clarity and depth of image that is stunning.	●		●	21.5x2.2	●				45	●	●
QED Profile Silver 12	15	10.97	★★★★☆	Demonstrates superlative resolution with an airy treble - tad tame for rockers.	●		●	20.2x1.6	●	●			68		●
QED Silver Anniversary Biwire	10	07.01	★★★★★	Delivers open, fast and transparent sound - at the price, it's terrific.	●			17x3.3	●	●			68		●
QED X-Tube XT300	10	09.02/GT	★★★★★	Fast, exciting yet well-balanced cable - makes the most of your system.	●			11.7x5.6	●				45		
QED X-Tube XT350	15	10.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Detail resolution is absolutely terrific.	●			12.1x5.9	●	●			45		

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456 777813

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Speaker cables continued...

One of the most cost-effective system upgrades – ever

BUDGET Up to £7/m

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	CONDUCTOR: Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Diameter (mm)	Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Termination	Directional	Bi-wire
QED X-Tube XT400	20	04.03/GT	★★★★★	Best speaker cable over £10 per metre in Awards 2004.	●			6	●	●			45		
Tara Labs Prism Nexa	9.95	08.99	★★★★★	Great with all types of music- don't use with bright-sounding electronics.	●			7.8dia	●				60	●	
TCI Anaconda	12	10.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	Cool design but detail and dynamic contrast isn't up to the class leaders.	●		●	2x2.4	●	●			11.99	●	
TCI Python	10	10.00/GT	★★★☆☆	Speedy and dynamic, but ultimately disappoints with a muddled bass.	●			9.5	●	●			9.99	●	
van den Hul CS-122	12	10.98	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2000. Detail, solidity and punch in spades.	●		●	6	●	●	●				
van den Hul Goldwater	8	09.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Good level of detail but it is not the most neutral cable.	●			17x5	●	●					

Analogue interconnects

Use a dedicated lead and sonic delivery takes a jump

BUDGET Up to £350

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	CONDUCTOR: Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Length (m)	Diameter (mm)	Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Phono term	XLR term	Directional
Atlas Equator	40	08.02/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Fabulous insight whatever music you listen to.	●			1.0	8.5	●				●		
Atlas Explorer	90	07.02/FT	★★★★★	Excellent debut from a new brand - of particular note is the bass performance.	●			1.0	8.5	●				●		
Atlas Questor	60	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Makes your kit sound better - avoids imprinting unwanted character.	●			1.0	8.5	●				●		
Atlas Voyager	110	04.03/GT	★★★★★	Excellent. Detail resolution is great for the money and bass is taut and powerful.	●			1.0	8.5	●				●		
Atlas Voyager All Cu	170	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Excellent - its open nature and rhythmic delivery ensures an enjoyable listen.	●			1.0	8.5	●				●		
Audio Note AN-C	60	08.01/GT	★★★☆☆	Basic presentation is very musical, but tonal flaws mean they aren't up to rivals.	●			1.0		●				●		
Audioquest Copperhead	72.95	08.02/GT	★★★★☆	Produces a seamless presentation that has plenty of punch and speed.	●			0.75	6	●				●		●
Audioquest Diamondback	95	08.01	★★★★☆	Fine interconnect, communicating mid and treble frequencies with musicality.		●		1.0	8	●				●		●
Black Rhodium Illusion	77	11.03/GT	★★★★★	Intriguing - looks thin and weedy, but sounds rich, powerful and direct.		●		1.0	2.8	●	●			●		
Black Rhodium Opera	297	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Almost justifies its hefty cost, but not quite.		●		1.0	5.6	●	●			●		
Black Rhodium Polar Melody	95	01.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Solid presentation but bass lacks weight and high frequencies lacks clarity.	●			1.0		●				●		
Black Rhodium Symphony	95	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive - tonal balance is neutral and the bass is solid with good detail levels.	●			1.0	8.4				●	●	●	●
Black Rhodium The First Base	25	08.01	★★★★☆	Fine cable for the money - audition if your budget is tight (was called SonicLink).	●			1.0		●				●		
Cambridge Audio SI Spirit 40	70	10.98/FT	★★★★☆	Talented cable that's superb at the price. Take care with system matching.	●			1.0		●				●		
Chord Company Calypso	30	10.01/GT	★★★★☆	The fine upper bass punch and fluid midrange make this a solid buy.	●			1.0	0.8	●				●		●
Chord Company Chorus	200	05.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy Awards '01. Terrifically deep bass, taut midrange and spacious top-end.	●			1.0	7.5	●	●			●	●	●
Chord Company Chrysalis	40	02.99	★★★☆☆	Highly Recommended, Awards '97. Especially suitable if you're after bigger bass.	●			1.0	4.8	●				●	●	●
Cyrus Interconnect	90	04.03/GT	★★★★★	Great buy. Crisp dynamics and breathtaking transparency considering the price.		●	●	0.5		●				●		●
DNM Reson	40	10.98/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Combines smoothness with fine transparency.		●	●	1.0		●				●		●
DNM Reson Bullet Plug	80	10.02/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year, Awards 2002. Most open-sounding we've heard under £100.		●	●	1.0		●				●		●
Ecosse Best Boy	24.95	11.03/GT	★★★★★	No looker, but it's honest and affordable, giving fine performance for the money.	●			1.0		●				●		●
Ecosse Conductor CA-1 Original	59	09.00/GT	★★★★★	Product of the Year Winner 2000. Allows all genres of music to sound their best.	●			0.8		●				●		●
Ecosse Maestro MA2 Original	160	10.99/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy, Awards 2000. Sonically they amaze. High-end system owners take note.	●			0.8		●				●		
Ecosse The Baton RCA	85	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	Fine punch and authority - this is a good, but not great, interconnect.	●			0.8		●				●		●
Ecosse The Composer	31	08.01/GT	★★★★★	A stellar interconnect - the signal is so well preserved it's hard to believe the price	●			0.8		●				●		
Insert Audio Focus 1.2 (pair)	21.50	10.98/FT	★★★★☆	A step-up from freebie cables - dynamic and fast, it is ideal for hard-hitting music.	●			1.0m	7	●				●	●	●
Insert Audio IC100 Mk II (pair)	29.95	01.99/FT	★★★★☆	Good, affordable interconnect. Produces an exciting, raw and enjoyable sound.	●			1.0m	8	●	●			●	●	●
Insert Audio Image 5.1 (pair)	84.95	03.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Not bad, but there are better stereo interconnects available at this price.	●			1.0	7	●	●			●	●	●
Ixos XHA306-100	20	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Great for entry-level. Ditch the cable that came with your budget kit and buy these.	●			1.0		●				●		
Ixos XHA406-100	30	08.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Fluid-sounding with a refined delivery. Would be useful in an overly bright system.	●			1.0		●				●		●
Ixos XHA606-100	60	08.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Designed to reduce interference, but the resulting sound is lazy and undynamic.	●		●	1.0		●	●			●		●

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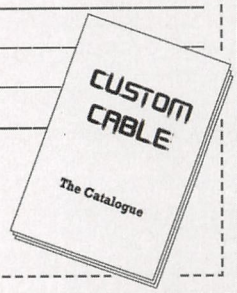

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Month/GT = Group Test

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Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218 ⇢

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MAXELL	-RW *cd case*	0.79
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PANASONIC	in cd case -RAM 4.7Gb	1.79
	-RAM 9.4Gb *each*	3.95
	DVD+R	
FUJI	+R *8 speed*	0.45
	25 spindle 8 speed	8.45
PHILIPS	+R *cd case*	0.65
	+R *video box*	0.69
	+R *25 spindle*	9.95
TDK	+R *cd case*	0.49
	+R *25 spindle*	8.95
VERBATIM	- White Printable	
	+R *cd case*	0.49
	+R *50 spindle*	24.95
	DVD+RW	
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	+RW *10 spindle*	6.75
TDK	+RW *cd case*	0.79
VERBATIM	+RW *cd case*	0.75
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	State Round or Square Caddy	
MAXELL	DVD-R 1.4Gb	3.95
	DVD RAM 2.8Gb	9.95
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TDK	DVD-RW 1.4Gb	5.95

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DM 46	2.45	DM 60	2.75
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	TDK		
D 60	0.35	D 90	0.39
D 120	1.35	SA 90	0.65

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	Buy 5x10 packs	9.95
FUJI	CD-R80 *25 spindle*	7.45
	CD-R74 PRO	0.75
	CD-R80 PRO	0.79
JVC	CD-R 80	0.39
TDK	CD-R 80	0.40
VERBATIM	CD-R 80	0.37
	Re-writable	
VERBATIM	CD-RW 80	0.95

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EMTEC	*20 slim pack*	4.45
	Buy 5x20 packs	19.95
FUJI	CD-R80 *100 spindle*	12.95
MAXELL	CD-XLS 80	0.35
TDK	CD-R80 cd case	0.31
	CD-R80 - *50 spindle*	7.95
	CD-R90 *800mb	0.45
VERBATIM	- *50 spindle*	6.95
	Re-writable	
MAXELL	CD-RW 80	0.55
TDK	CD-RW700 *hi speed*	0.65

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	DVM 83 Pro	5.99
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	DVM 60+chip	5.95
	DVM 80	4.95
SONY	MV 60 micro	6.95
TDK	Mini DV Cleaner	9.95
	Larger Format & DV-Cam	
SONY	DV 180 + chip	16.49
	PDV 184 N	19.95
	PDV184ME + chip	27.95
	VIDEO 8 & *Hi-8*(Dig.8)	
FUJI	P5-90 *std*	1.45
	P5-90 SHG	1.75
	*P5-90 HMP	2.75
	*E5-90 HME	3.75
	VHS & S-VHS COMPACT	
FUJI	EC 45 HQ	1.25
	EC 45 SHG	1.39
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LR1	0.75	LR23	0.75
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SONY	MDW 74	0.63
	MDW 80	0.79
	Hi-MD 1Gb	8.95
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MEMOREX	MD Cleaner	3.95

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	JVC SX		
E180	0.69	E240	0.85
KONICA		E30	0.65
E60	0.66	E120	0.67
E180	0.68	E240	0.85
TDK HS		E180	0.99
E240	1.20	E300	3.25
MAXELL Black		E30	0.85
E60	0.89	E120	0.99
E180	1.25	E240	1.45
FUJI SHG		E30	1.35
E60	1.39	E120	1.45
E180	1.49	E240	1.89
	TDK EHG		
E180	1.75	E240	2.35
	FUJI HIFI *in Library Case*		
E180	1.79	E240	1.99
	FUJI SXG PRO		
In Library Box		E30	3.25
E120	3.50	E180	4.10
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SE30	3.35	SE120	3.45
SE180	3.49	SE240	4.95
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SE180	2.45	SE240	3.45
	TDK XP		
SE180	3.95	SE240	5.45
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JVC	DF300	31.7 Gb	7.95
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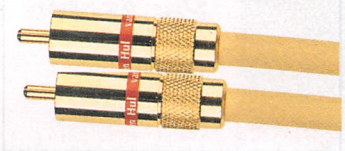
Analogue interconnects continued...

Use a dedicated lead and sonic delivery takes a jump

BUDGET Up to £350

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Multistrand	Solid core	Flat	Length (m)	Diameter (mm)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Phono term	XLR term	Directional
Ixos XHA806-100	100	10.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Uses impressive gamma-weave noise rejection technology but are disappointing.	●			1.0		●	●			●		●
Kimber Tonik	51	04.03/GT	★★★★☆	Cohesive and informative - will give fine results in most budget systems.	●			1.0		●				●	●	●
LAT International IC-100 MkII	116	03.98	★★★★☆	Delivers to amps the sort of bass subwoofers love - fast, extended and exciting.		●		1.0	8.5	●	●			●	●	●
Merlin Bach	50	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Good, fast and capable but rivals offer greater refinement.	●			1.0		●				●		
Merlin Chopin	85	10.03/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo interconnect over £50 in Awards 2004. Superb.	●		●	1.0	12	●				●		●
Merlin Verdi	185	03.04/GT	★★★★★	Not cheap. Its performance makes it well worth the money in the right system.	●			1.0	9	●				●		●
Monster I 400 MkII	45	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Slightly ragged treble and cramped soundstage.	●			1.0		●				●		
Nordost Black Knight	72	04.97/FT	★★★★★	Clean sounding - enhanced clarity, extended bandwidth and dynamic resolution.		●	●	1.0		●				●	●	●
Nordost Blue Heaven	173	10.99/GT	★★★★☆	Exciting and full of attack and drive but up-front sound won't suit everyone.	●		●	1.0		●	●			●	●	●
Nordost Cinemafl Bassline Sub	303	10.02/GT	★★★★☆	If you have a very good subwoofer in your set-up buy this great sounding cable.	●		●	5.0	flat	●	●			●	●	●
Nordost Red Dawn	347	05.98/FT	★★★★☆	At this price it's one for high-end set-ups, but an exhilarating listen.	●		●	1.0		●	●			●	●	●
Nordost Solar Wind	100	03.98/GT	★★★★★	Technically interesting and fine-sounding - this is one exciting cable.	●		●	1.0		●	●			●	●	●
Profigold PGA-3000	40	04.02/GT	★★★☆☆	Solidly-made cable. Will flatter systems that tend towards thinness or brightness.	●			0.75		●				●		●
Profigold PGA4201	15	08.99	★★★★☆	A safe bet in entry-level set ups but avoid partnering with already-bright kit.	●			1.0		●				●		
QED Qunex 4 Silver	60	09.00/GT	★★★★☆	Classy looking cable that will handle whatever you throw at it with ease.	●			1.0	8.1	●	●			●		●
QED Qunex One	20	02.99	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 1999. Staggeringly good value (was called Qnect 1).	●			1.0	6.0	●				●		
QED Qunex Silver Spiral	75	10.98/FT	★★★★★	Highly Recommended, Awards 1998. Great value for money (was called Qnect)	●			0.5	8.1	●	●			●		
QED Qunex Two	30	03.98	★★★★★	Highly Recommended, Awards 1998. Weighty and involving (was Qnect).	●			1.0	6.1	●				●		●
Roksan HDC-02A	85	09.00/GT	★★★★★	Truly excellent performer, boasting a wide range of sonic talents, at a fair price	●			1.0		●				●		●
Supra EFF-ISL (pair)	90	08.99	★★★☆☆	It's expensive, yet it's an unexciting source-to-amp connection.	●			0.75	7	●	●			●		●
True Colours Industries Cobra	175	11.03/GT	★★★★★	In upmarket set-ups this is an interconnect that will really shine.	●			1.0	6.5	●	●			●	●	●
True Colours Industries Tiger	30	10.03/GT	★★★★☆	Looks cheap but, surprisingly, sound quality is polished for the money.	●			1.0	3	●	●			●		
True Colours Industries Viper	70	03.04/GT	★★★★☆	A capable and well-priced interconnect - definitely worth an audition.	●			1.0	6	●				●	●	●
True Colours Industries ViperSix	180	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	Six channel - insightful but perhaps too restrained for some ears.	●			1.0	21	●				●		●
van den Hul D102 III HB	90	05.98	★★★★★	Product of the Year in the Awards 2001. Smooth, natural and detailed. (Was £79)	●			0.8	7.3	●	●	●		●	●	●
van den Hul The Bay C5	50	04.02/GT	★★★★★	A very good all-round performance cable, and excellent value.	●			0.8	5.2	●				●		
van den Hul The First Ultimate	225	09.00/GT	★★★★★	Stunning - if your system's good, these interconnects are highly recommended.	●			1.0	7.8			●		●		
van den Hul The Name	40	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Best stereo interconnect under £50 in Awards 2004. Cracking choice.	●			0.8m	7.3	●	●			●		●



van den Hul The Name

Don't let The Name confuse you (if it hasn't done already), but this is the interconnect to own at this price. It allows for a rich and full-bodied presentation without losing any vital resolution along the way. You're treated to a beautiful sonic balance with instruments and vocals alike - a worthy best-in-class product.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST STEREO INTERCONNECT UNDER £50
van den Hul The Name

van den Hul The Source	65	05.00/GT	★★★★★	Wonderfully-balanced wire for the money - we recommend it without hesitation.	●			0.8	7.0	●	●	●		●		●
Vivanco Prowire PHC2215	12	Awd.00	★★★★☆	Good value. Allows a weighty and powerful sound. A good step-up from freebies.	●			1.5		●				●		●
Vivanco Prowire SHQ	30	11.03/GT	★★★☆☆	Nicely put together, but it sounds a bit soft and woolly even by budget standards.	●			1.2		●	●			●		●
Wireworld Rainbow 5	150	05.04/FT	★★★★☆	Six-channel cable - musical and punchy, with bags of attack and detail.	●			1.0	5x6/5	●	●			●		●

Mains cables, blocks & conditioners

Make the most of your equipment with superior mains cabling

BUDGET Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: Cable	Block	Conditioner	Length (m)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	Silver	Carbon	Other	Captive lead	No of sockets	Figure of 8 (2pin)	IEC (3pin)
Black Rhodium Pow Manage	300	10.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Boosts top- and bottom-end refinement, but reduces pure sonic punch.		●	●	2.0	●	●			●	8		●
Black Rhodium Super Mains	100	05.04/GT	★★★☆☆	An improvement over a kettle lead, but not a super mains cable - there's better.	●			1.25	●	●						
Black Rhodium Super Mains 13	55	12.98/GT	★★★★☆	We noticed better bass extension and a more mellifluous treble.	●			1.25	●	●						
DeZorel PowerStation 1	549	08.03/FT	★★★★☆	Can work brilliantly with the right kit - make sure you audition before you buy.			●							2		
Ecosse The Big Orange	33	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Looks pretty unusual but its sonics cut the mustard.	●			1.0	●							
Isol-8 Cleanline 2	295	01.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Beats your regular supply from the mains but it's no class leader.			●	-						6		
Isotek Elite	80	05.04/GT	★★★☆☆	It sounds miles better than a free cable, but falls well short of full marks.	●			1.5	●							
Isotek Gemini 6-way	260	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Stunning performer giving a good overall tonal balance.		●								6		
Isotek GII Vision	549	09.04/FT	★★★★★	Best mains filter in Awards 2004. One of the most cost-effective upgrades.			●							6		
Isotek Isoplug	30	01.03/FT	★★★★☆	Eliminates mains noise, which could mean a smoother-sounding system.			●									
Isotek MiniSub	495	08.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2003. Improves detail and transparency levels.		●	●							6		
Merlin Black Widow	125	08.03/FT	★★★★★	A cost-effective way to boost the bass weight and detail levels of your system.		●		2.0	●				●	4		●
Merlin Black Window v2	85	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Impressive but its delivery isn't quite as clear as we'd like.	●			1.5	●							
Merlin Tarantula	50	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. Offers killer value and sounds simply magical.	●			1.5	●							
Monster Power Centre HTS1000	150	01.05/GT	★★★☆☆	This filtered mains block performs better than standard mains blocks.		●	●							8		
Nordost Shiva	220	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Levels of detail are excellent, but sound is slightly lean and cost slightly steep.	●			2.0	●							
One Click Intellig Mains Panel	30	08.02/FT	★★★☆☆	Allows you to switch off all your kit with one button - fine, if that's what you want.		●							●	6		●
Russ Andrews The Silencer	140	10.03/FT	★★★★☆	Gives a smooth and polished sound and extra bass weight to your system.			●									

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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BEST SOUND & VISION BUY

Panasonic TH-37PE30

FEATURES

SCREEN TYPE: PLASMA
SCREEN SIZE: 94CMV 16:9 WIDESCREEN PANEL
PROCESSING: FULL-DIGITAL PROCESSOR
SOUND: NICAM/SMART SOUND SPEAKER SYSTEM
INPUTS: 3 SCART TERMINALS
DIMENSIONS(mm): WIDTH:1040
HEIGHT:679
DEPTH:99
WEIGHT:34.5KG

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

852 X 480 VGA RESOLUTION • 4000:1 CONTRAST
1024 SHADES OF GRADUATION • SD/PC CARD SLOT

TEL: 01204 861 861
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Panasonic TH-42PW7B

PLASMA SCREEN • 42 " 106 CM WIDESCREEN • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • A GREAT 42", 16:9 WIDESCREEN PLASMA PANEL FROM PANASONIC. • DELIVERS BRILLIANT, HIGH CONTRAST IMAGES WITH RICH GRADUATION AND REMARKABLE DEPTH • REMOTE CONTROL • 852 X 480 PIXEL COUNT • 4000:1 CONTRAST RATIO • VGA, SVGA, XGA A/V MAC II COMPATIBLE

Panasonic DMR-E55EBS

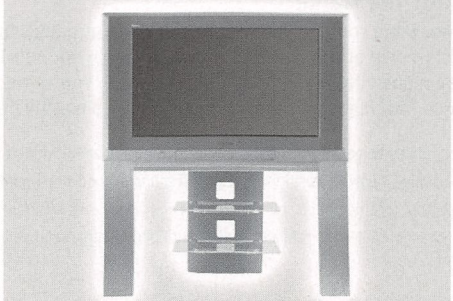
DIGA DVD RECORDER • RECORDING ONTO DVD-RAM (UP TO 16 HRS ON DOUBLE SIDED DISC) AND DVD-R (UP TO 8 HRS) • TIME SLIP-FUNCTION • 5 RECORDING MODES • PAL PROGRESSIVE SCAN • NEW DIRECT NAVIGATOR

Panasonic DMR-85HEBS

DIGA DVD RECORDER WITH BUILT-IN HARD DISK • 80GB HARD DISK DRIVE • RECORDING ONTO HARD DISC (UP TO 142 HRS), DVD-RAM (UP TO 16 HRS ON A DOUBLE SIDED DISC), DVD-R (UP TO 8 HRS) • FAST, EASY RECORDING FROM HARD DISK TO DVD-RAM/COPY FROM DVD-RAM TO HDD

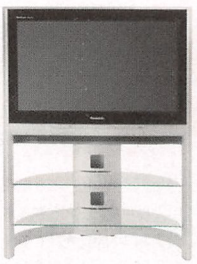
Panasonic DMR-E500H

DVD RECORDER WITH 400GB HARD DISK • SAVE UP TO 709 HOURS OF VIEWING • SD/MULTIMEDIA CARD SLOT/S /MP3 /CD-R/RW /VCD /CD-R/RW PLAYBACK /DVD-R/RW /DVD /CD /DVD RAM/ DVD+R/RW /JPEG VIEWING • FRONT AV CONNECTOR • REMOTE CONTROL.



Panasonic TX-28DTX1

QUINTRIX FLAT PICTURE TUBE • 66CMV 16:9 WIDESCREEN • 100HZ SUPER DIGITAL SCAN VIRTUAL DOLBY/ NICAM • 2 SCART TERMINALS • W:807 H:509 D:533 WEIGHT:45KG CABINET INCLUDED • TELETEXT/FASTEXT/ REMOTE CONTROL: TV/TEXT/VCR/DVD/DVB 250 PAGES TEXT

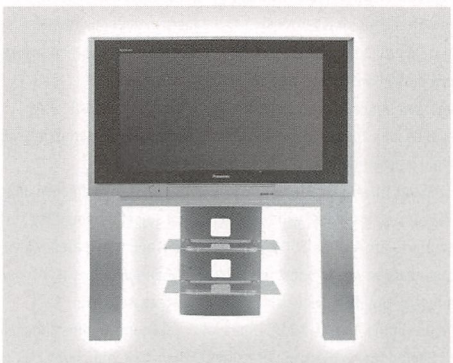


Panasonic TX-36PD50

• WIDESCREEN
• 36" 88CM
• 100HZ
• VIRTUAL DOLBY
• 4 X EURO SCART CONNECTIONS
• THE NEW T[TAU] 16:9 ACUITY TX-36PD30 HAS A 16:9 QUINTRIXSR-2 /DIGITAL COMB FILTER /HIGH CONTRAST /AUTO SETUP /100 PAGE TEXT MEMORY /PROGRESSIVE SCAN/ 32 W RMS /BUILT IN SUBWOOFER / FRONT AV CONNECTOR /REMOTE CONTROL

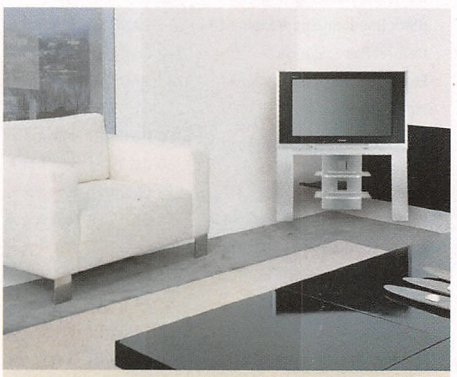
Panasonic TX-32LXD1

QUINTRIX FLAT PICTURE TUBE • 76CMV 16:9 WIDESCREEN • 100HZ SUPER DIGITAL SCAN VIRTUAL DOLBY/NICAM • 2 SCART TERMINALS • W:902 H:566 D:549 WEIGHT:60KG • TELETEXT/FASTEXTREMOTE CONTROL:TV/TEXT/VCR/DVD • 10 PAGES TEXT /INTEGRATED DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TUNER



Panasonic TX-32DTX40

QUINTRIX FLAT PICTURE TUBE • 76CMV 16:9 WIDESCREEN • 100HZ SUPER DIGITAL SCAN VIRTUAL DOLBY/NICAM • 3 SCART TERMINALS • W:902 H:566 D:549 WEIGHT:60KGY TELETEXT/FASTEXT/ REMOTE CONTROL: TV/TEXT/VCR/DVD/DVB • 1500 PAGES TEXT



Panasonic TX-32DTX10

QUINTRIX FLAT PICTURE TUBE • 66CM 16:9 WIDESCREEN • 100HZ SUPER DIGITAL SCAN VIRTUAL DOLBY/ NICAM • 2 SCART TERMINALS • W:807 H:509 D:533 WEIGHT:45KG INCLUDES CABINET • TELETEXT • FASTEXT • REMOTE CONTROL: TV/TEXT/VCR/DVD/DVB/ 250 PAGES TEXT

WHFSV0205/1

SONY KDL-L42MRX1

PLASMA • 42" 107CM • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • BBE SOUND/VIRTUAL DOLBY SURROUND SOUND • 3 SCART • W:1350 H:72 D:102 WEIGHT:39.5KG • INTEGRATED DIGITAL TUNER/WXGA PANEL 1024X768 PIXELS/FLOATING DESIGN CONCEPT/MEMORY STICK RECORD (JPEG, MPEG4) AND PLAYBACK

SONY KLV-21SG2

XGA LCD • 21" 53CM • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • SVEI/ NICAM • 3 SCART TERMINALS • W:630 H:404 D:127 WEIGHT:10.5KG • REMOTE CONTROLL • 1024X768 PIXELS • INTEGRATED TV TUNER • MEMORY STICK VIEWER • SECAM

SONY KD-28DL11

- SCREEN: 28" FD TRINITRON WEGA
- SCREEN TYPE: 28", 71 CM, 100HZ
- NICAM • 2 SCART TERMINALS
- W:788 H:517 D:523 WEIGHT:41KG
- CABINET INCLUDED
- INTEGRATED DIGITAL TUNER FOR FREEVIEW
- WIDE MODE/14:9 MODE
- DIGITAL TEXT • PARENTAL LOCK
- REMOTE

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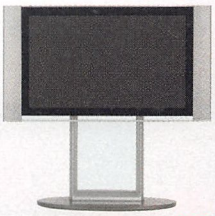
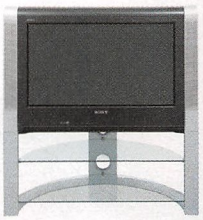


BEST SOUND & VISION BUY

SONY KDE-P37XS1

PLASMA • 37" 94CM • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • VIRTUAL DOLBY SURROUND • 3 SCART TERMINALS • W:1135 H:692 D:286 WEIGHT:38KG • CABINET INCLUDED • INTEGRATED DIGITAL TUNER/ WEGA PICTURE ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY/MEMORY STICK PLAYBACK/ ALIS HD PANEL1024X1024 PIXELS



SONY KD-32DX51

- FD TRINITRON® WEGA®
- 32" 82CM
- SVEI/ DOLBY/ NICAM
- 2 SCART TERMINALS
- W:911 H:569 D:590 WEIGHT:70KG
- CABINET INCLUDED
- INTEGRATED DIGITAL TUNER
- EPG/ SMARTLINK
- SLEEP TIMER/ AUTO STANDBY
- REMOTE CONTROLL.

CALL: 01204 861861

SONY KDE-P42MRX1

PLASMA • 42" 107CM • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • BBE SOUND/VIRTUAL DOLBY SURROUND SOUND • 3 SCART • W:1350 H:72 D:102 WEIGHT:39.5KG • INTEGRATED DIGITAL TUNER/WXGA PANEL 1024X768 PIXELS/FLOATING DESIGN CONCEPT/MEMORY STICK RECORD (JPEG, MPEG4) AND PLAYBACK

SONY KV-36HQ100

36" FD TRINITRON WEGA • 36" 92CM • 100HZ DIGITAL MOTION • VIRTUAL DOLBY SURROUND SOUND AND BBE DIGITAL SOUND PROCESSING • 4X SCART • W:1100 H:627 D:622 WEIGHT:88KG • CABINET INCLUDED • SUPER FINE PITCH CRT • VERTICAL PICTURE STABLISER • 2000 PAGE TELETEXT MEMORY • DIGITAL NOISE REDUCTION

SONY DVP-NS355

SLIM ENTRY DVD PLAYER • PLAYBACK DVD • DVD-RW • DVD-R • CD • VCD • SVCD • DTS DIGITAL OUTPUT

SONY SLV-D930

COMPACT DESIGN VCR • DVD COMBINATION DECK • VHF/UHF TUNER • JPEG & MP3 PLAYBACK • VIDEO+ • FLASH REWIND

SONY RDR-GX300

RDR-GX300 IS NOTABLE FOR ITS EASY-TO-USE, BASIC FUNCTIONS THAT DELIVER HIGH QUALITY RECORDED CONTENT/12BIT/108MHZ VIDEO D/A CONVERTER ENSURES EXCEPTIONAL PICTURE QUALITY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE VIEWING EXPERIENCE. PIXEL-BY-PIXEL I/P CONVERSION

SONY KV-32CS70 – CALL FOR LATEST PRICE

FEATURES WIDESCREEN • 32" 76CM • 100HZ • ZVEI/ NICAM • SCART X 3
DIGITAL NOISE REDUCTION / 3D SOUND / VIRTUAL DOLBY + BBE / SMARTLINK / AUTO TUNING / START UP / SORTING / SMART / ZOOM / 4:3 / 16:9 / WIDE

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Pioneer PDP-505

FEATURES

SCREEN TYPE: PLASMA
SCREEN SIZE: 50"
PROCESSING: DIGITAL PROCESSOR
SOUND: NICAM
INPUTS: 4 SCART TERMINALS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

WIDESCREEN • DIGITAL COMB FILTER • 2100 PAGE TEXT MEMORY • PROGRESSIVE SCAN • FREE VIEW DIGITAL VIDEO BROADCASTING • HIGH RESOLUTION SCREEN • TEXT DUAL SCREEN • CHILDLOCK • REMOTE CONTROL • 1280X768 PIXEL COUNT • 1000 CD/M2 SCREEN BRIGHTNESS • 1100:1 CONTRAST RATIO • XGA • SVGA

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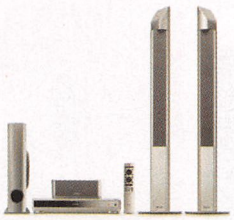


Pioneer DCS-424

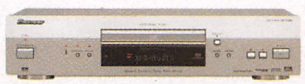
3-Spot DVD Home Cinema System- 3-Spot Front Surround Setting • Powerful 600 W RMS • Ultra-slim subwoofer (9 cm wide) • Easy Room & Seat Postion Set-up • SR+ Terminal for PDP connection • MP3/WMA/JPEG playback • Dolby Pro Logic Surround • DVD-Video • DVD-R • DVD-RW • VCD

Pioneer DVR-220

DVD RECORDER • SLIM DESIGN (ONLY 5.9 CM) • CHASE PLAY, SIMULTENEOUS RECORDING AND PLAYBACK • RGB IN/OUT VIA EURO-SCART • MP3/WMA/JPEG PLAYBACK • HIGH DVD-R/DVD-RW PLAYBACK COMPATIBILITY • EASY-TO-USE AND FAST OPERATION • DVD-VIDEO/DVD-R/DVD • MP3 • WMA

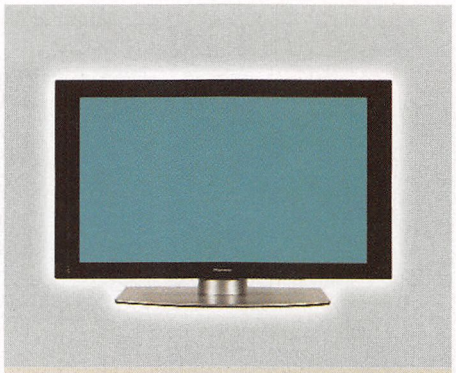
Pioneer DVR-420

HDD (HARD DISK DRIVE) DVD RECORDER • HIGH-CAPACITY 80GB HARD DISK DRIVE • 48 X HIGH-SPEED COPY FROM HDD TO DVD • CHASE PLAY, SIMULTENEOUS RECORDING AND PLAYBACK • RGB IN • OUT VIA EURO-SCART • MP3/WMA/JPEG PLAYBACK • DVD-VIDEO/DVD-R/DVD-RW/CD/SVCD/VCD/CD-R/CD-RW/MP3 • WMA



Pioneer DV-757I

DVD PLAYER • DTS • DOLBY DIGITAL • 2 X SVHS/S-VIDEO CONNECTION/S • 1 X EURO SCART CONNECTION/S • 1 X COMPONENT VIDEO CONNECTION/S • 1 OPTICAL TERMINAL CONNECTION/S • 1 CO-AXIAL DIGITAL CONNECTION/S • AUDIO ANALOG PHONO CONNECTION/S • COMPOSITE VIDEO CONNECTION/S • DOLBY DIGITAL DECODER • PLUG & PLAY • 2 I-LINK TERMINALS • MP3 • CD-R/RW • VCD /DVD-R/RW • SVCD • PROGRESSIVE VIDEO OUTPUT (NTSC) • DVD-A • DVD /CD /SUPER AUDIO CD • TWIN WAVE LASER • 10-BIT VIDEO SIGNAL D/A CONVERTER • 96 KHZ/24-BIT D/A CONVERTER • OSD • REMOTE CONTROL • 240V POWER SUPPLY



Pioneer PDP-435

PLASMA SCREEN • 43" • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • NICAM • SCART X 3 • THE PDP-435 IS A FANTASTIC 43" PLASMA TV THAT INCLUDES A MEDIA RECEIVER, A BUILT IN AMPLIFIER FOR OPTIONAL SPEAKERS, A DUAL SCREEN DISPLAY, A PC CARD SLOT AND A 3 LINE DIGITAL COMB FILTER. CHILD LOCK /99 PRESET CHANNELS /PAL/NTSC PROGRESSIVE SCAN COMP. 160 DEGREE VIEWING ANGLE

SHARP LC-15SH1E

LCD • 15" 38.1CM • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • TRADITIONAL (4:3) • NICAM • REMOTE CONTROL • TFT LCD PANEL • 430 CD/M2 SCREEN BRIGHTNESS • 500:1 CONTRAST RATIO

SHARP LC-22AD1E

LCD AQUOS • 22" • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • 3 X EURO SCART CONNECTION/S • N/A FASTEXT • WIDESCREEN • HIGH CONTRAST • 20 W RMS • 3 X EURO SCART CONNECTION/S • 60000 HRS LONG LIFE BACKLIGHT • 120 X 768 PIXEL COUNT • 430 CD/M2 SCREEN BRIGHTNESS • 500:1 CONTRAST RATIO • 20.1 (KG) WEIGHT (APPROX) • 220V-240V AC POWER SUPPLY

SHARP LC-32GA5E

LCD • 32" • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • NICAM • PURE FLAT SCREEN • NICAM • FASTEXT • WIDESCREEN

SHARP LC-26GA4E

LCD • 26" • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • NICAM • BUILT IN TELETEXT (TOP/FLOF) • 12 LANGUAGE OCD • MULTI-SYSTEM TUNER (PAL/SECAM) • SRS FOCUS SURROUND SOUND

WHFSV0205/3

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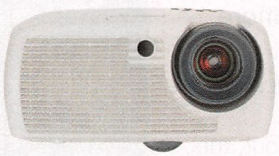
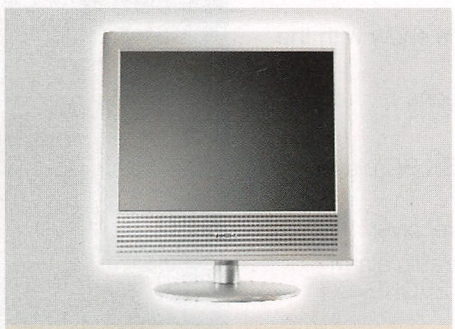
TOSHIBA 46WM48

DLP TV • 46" • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • INCLUDES CABINET • HDMI CONNECTIVITY • HIGH DEFINITION READY • 'REAL DIGITAL' PICTURE PROCESSING • 1000:1 CONTAST RATIO



TOSHIBA MT-100

DLP FRONT PROJECTOR • FAOUDJA DCCDI LINE DE-INTERLACER • 2000:1 CONTRAST RATIO • 1000 ANSI LUMENS BRIGHTNESS • COLOUR:WHITE • 1 X SVHS/S-VIDEO CONNECTION/S 1 X COMPONENT VIDEO CONNECTION/S COMPOSITE VIDEO CONNECTION/S • USB 1.1 CONNECTION/S • VGA,SVGA,XGA /OSD • REMOTE CONTROL • 1000 ANSI LUMENS BRIGHTNESS • DLP DISPLAY TECHNOLOGY



TOSHIBA 20VL44S

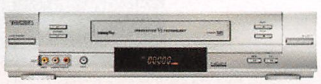
LCD SCREEN • 20" SCREEN SIZE • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • SCARTX 3 • 500CD/M2 • CONTRAST RATIO • BUILT IN TUNER • PEDESTAL STAND INCLUDED

TOSHIBA RD-XS32

100HZ DVD PLAYER • 2 X SVHS/S-VIDEO CONNECTION/S • 1 OPTICAL TERMINAL CONNECTION/S • 1 CO-AXIAL DIGITAL CONNECTION/S • COMPOSITE VIDEO CONNECTION/S • 2 SCART SOCKETS • CD-R/RW • VCD • CD-R/RW PLAYBACK • VIDEOPLUS

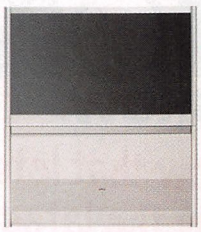
TOSHIBA SD34-VBS

THE COMBI SD-34VB IS A DIGEST OF TECHNOLOGY, AND COMBINES FOR YOU THE BEST OF DVD AND VIDEO TAPE RECORDER IN ONE. IT WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER: ROOM, LIMITED CONNECTIVITY, ONE REMOTE CONTROL, ONE DEVICE. PAL PROGRESSIVE SCAN /JPEG VIEWER /RECORD FROM DVD TO VCR /4 HEAD NICAM VCR WITH VIDEO+



TOSHIBA V754-UKS

TOSHIBA NICAM VCR. SUPERB QUALITY AND EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY • NICAM STEREO • VIDEOPLUS + PDC • ICON ON-SCREEN DISPLAY • DIGITAL RECEIVER CONTROL



TOSHIBA 42WH46

REAR PROJECTION TV • 42" • 107V CM VISIBLE SCREEN SIZE • FASTEXT • WIDESCREEN • PURE FLAT SCREEN • 100HZ PICTURE SCAN • DIGITAL COMB FILTER • 128 PAGE TEXT MEMORY • PROGRESSIVE SCAN • EASY TEXT • 16:9 WIDESCREEN MODES • NICAM • BASS BOOST • 28 W RMS • CABINET INCLUDED • HEADPHONE SOCKET • 3 SCART SOCKETS • FRONT AV CONNECTOR • REMOTE CONTROL

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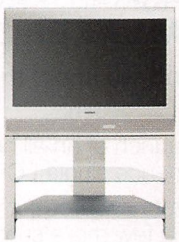
LCD • 27" 66CM • DIGITAL PROCESSOR • DIGITAL NICAM STEREO • SCART X 3 • H:493 D:311 W:583 (APPROX.) • DIGITAL NICAM STEREO SOUND • SUBWOOFER OUTPUT • MULTI-STANDARD : PAL/NTSC/SECAM • AUDIO POWER: 2 X 10W RMS • COLOUR: SILVER • FASTEXT • WIDESCREEN • PURE FLAT SCREEN



TOSHIBA 28Z44

FLAT WIDESCREEN • 28" 71CM • 100HZ NICAM • SCART X 2 • H:508 D:495 W:680 • CABINET INCLUDED • FACE FLAT • INVAR MASK/PICTURE 50HZ • PICTURE SIZE ADJUSTMENT • SUPER SCENE CONTROL • AUTO SET-UP • NTSC VIDEO PLAYBACK • 100 CHANNELS • OFF TIMER • PANEL LOCK • SELECTABLE PICTURE • TEXT PAGE MEMORY • TEXT WITH FASTEXT • WIDESCREEN SIGNALLING • OPEN CABINET STAND • NICAM STEREO • 10W RMS AUDIO OUTPUT

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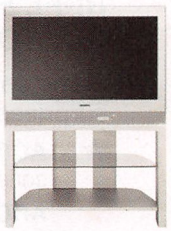

TOSHIBA 28ZH46

FLAT WIDESCREEN • 28" • 100HZ • 66 CM VISIBLE SCREEN SIZE • FASTEXT • WIDESCREEN • PURE FLAT SCREEN • AUTO SETUP • 16:9 WIDESCREEN MODES • NICAM • BASS BOOST • HEADPHONE SOCKET • 2 SCART SOCKETS • CABINET INCLUDED • CHILDLOCK • ON/OFF TIMER • REMOTE CONTROL • TOUGHENED SAFETY GLASS

TOSHIBA 36ZP48 – CALL FOR LATEST PRICE

FEATURES PURE FLATSCREEN • 36" 92CM SCREEN • DOLBY DIGITAL • SCART X 3 • H:632 D:600 W:858 • CABINET INCLUDED • PURE FLATSCREEN/100 HZ PICTURE FREQUENCY/DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 SURROUND SOUND 4 EXTERNAL SPEAKERS • FASTEXT FOR EASY ACCESS TO TELETEXT • AUTO INSTALL FACILITY • SLEEP TIMER

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HI-FI, HOME CINEMA, PLASMAS, PROJECTORS, CUSTOM INSTALL – IT'S ALL AT BRISTOL

Some early sneak previews... (and we know there are lots more surprises in store!)

- **ACOUSTIC ENERGY** – UK Launch of an all new on wall speaker series, including a high performance single LCR
- **ARCAM** – Project Solo, a secret new product making its debut, the DiVA DT91 DAB/FM radio and a few more surprises too...
- **CYRUS** – DAC XP, PhonoX, Linkserver Quattro, Linkserver Solo, Xpower, PreXvs – we're not sure if they can fit any more in!
- **DENON** – home cinema goes from strength to strength with the launch of the AVC-A1XV 10 channel amplifier
- **ELAC** – FS607 X-JET loudspeakers, launched at the show with the first public demonstrations
- **FUJITSU** – launching its new 40 series plasma screens
- **KEF** – KHT 6000 ACE speaker system
- **LINN** – CHAKRA power amplification range, UNIDISK SC player, ARTIKULAT loudspeaker range
- **NAD** – NetCap network receiver and L53 DVD/CD receiver
- **PURE** – a new handheld digital radio, a new digital radio alarm clock and another colour choice for the best selling EVOKE-1XT
- **REGA** – R1, R3, R5 and R7 loudspeakers
- **SENNHEISER** – more new models, including the PXC-300 NoiseGuard headphones
- **TANNOY** – First public demonstration of the incredible Arena system
- **YAMAHA** – YSP-1 digital sound projector, DVD-S2500 high quality DVD-Audio/SACD player
- **WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION** – there in person to answer all your questions about hi-fi, home cinema and more

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Mains cables, blocks & conditioners continued...

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BUDGET Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: Cable	TYPE: Block	TYPE: Conditioner	Length (m)	CONDUCTOR: Copper	CONDUCTOR: Silver	CONDUCTOR: Carbon	CONDUCTOR: Other	Captive lead	No of sockets	Figure of 8 (2pin)	IEC (3pin)
Russ Andrews Clas. PowerKord	75	05.04/GT	★★★★★	Best mains lead under £100 in Awards 2004. Impressively clean delivery.	●			1.27	●							

Russ Andrews Classic PowerKord

Believe it! Your whole musical experience will get a welcome boost - especially in the midrange: vocals sound much more solid, with greater presence and focus, while instruments are treated with an extra coat of realism and accuracy. This PowerKord is a Classic in more ways than one - a great addition to any hi-fi.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST MAINS LEAD UNDER £100
Russ Andrews Classic Powerkord

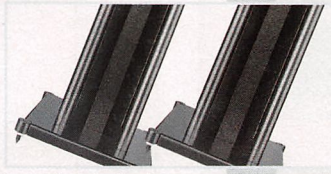
Russ Andrews Ref Powerkord	115	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Not quite as good value as the Award winning £75 Classic PowerKord.	●			1.27	●				●			●
Smart Sound P2000	299	08.02/FT	★★★★★	The P2000 is a great upgrade for most systems. We'd certainly buy one.		●	●							2		
Supra LoRad	50	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Lively sonic performer but the soundstage is a touch cramped.	●			1.5	●							
TTCI Constrictor	100	05.04/GT	★★★★★	Has a vice-like grip but an open delivery. Uncovers nuances previously missed.	●			1.1	●	●						
van den Hul Mainsstream BS	225	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Best mains lead over £100 in Awards 2004. Singularly most effective upgrade.	●			2.5	●	●						
Wireworld Stratus 5 Power Cord	130	05.04/GT	★★★★★	Expensive, but this substantial cable is worth every penny - hugely impressive.	●			2.0	●							

Speaker stands

Essential to make the best of any standmounted speaker

BUDGET Up to £500

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	DIMENSIONS: Height (cm)	DIMENSIONS: Width (cm)	DIMENSIONS: Depth (cm)	MATERIAL: Steel	MATERIAL: Aluminium	MATERIAL: Concrete	MATERIAL: Wood	MATERIAL: Glass	MATERIAL: Carbon	MATERIAL: Fillable	Top-plate spkies	Floor spkies
Alphason AG50	99	12.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	Performance and construction are disappointing at this price.	50	25	27	●						●		●
Apollo A1/6	40	02.99/GT	★★★★☆	Effective, if a little crude, being reasonably weighty and very rigid.	61	21	26	●						●		●
Apollo A4/6	80	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Beautifully built with an outstanding sound - a real bargain.	61	20	26	●						●		●
Apollo AZ range	100	08.96	★★★★☆	Music's strong and vibrant, bass weight excellent. Best in large rooms.	41-61	26	31	●						●		●
Apollo Olympus	80	12.96	★★★★★	Rock steady: speakers enjoy sharper focus and tighter bass.	41-61	28	28	●						●		●
Atacama Nexus 6 (black)	60	12.00/GT	★★★★★	Best Buy in Awards 2000. A steal for build, price and sonic balance.	60	25	30	●						●		●
Atacama R724 (black)	250	01.02/GT	★★★★☆	Fine choice for top speakers - maximise punch and bass response.	60	26	35	●						●	●	●
Atacama SE6	100	12.04/GT	★★★★☆	Well designed, but sonic performance isn't boosted as well as the best.	60	25	30	●						●		●
Epos ST35	99	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	Fine stands that work well with the right speakers.	56	17	15	●							●	●
Kudos S100	495	01.02/GT	★★★★★	Excellent, offering fine imaging, strong focus and outstanding bass.	61	32	32	●					●	●	●	●
Kudos S50	160	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Weighty build and first-class performance, but rivals do it cheaper.	61	32	32	●						●		●
Mission Stance	100	08.03/GT	★★★★☆	Competent, but the resulting sound can lack authority and presence.	58	21	28	●						●	●	●
Mission Stancette	60	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Good all-round performers and attractive design. Excellent for the price.	57	17	23	●						●		●
Partington Dreadnoug. Broadside	250	12.04/GT	★★★★★	Expensive but justifiable, improvements to sound are amazing.	60			●						●		●
Partington Super Dreadnought	169	08.03/GT	★★★★★	Best speaker stands in Awards 2004. Dramatic boost to a system.	60	16	17	●						●		●



Partington Super Dreadnought

The industrial design might not suit all tastes, but there's no faulting the performance: every standmount speaker we tested - from £200 Monitor Audios all the way up to £1000 ATCs - sounded better sat on top of a pair of these. Clearer midrange and more bass make these highly effective accessories.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST SPEAKER STANDS
Partington Super Dreadnought

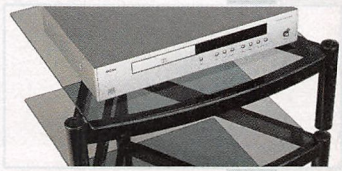
Sound Organisation Z522	100	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Heavyweight build quality but restrictive dynamics.	57	25	30	●						●	●	●
Soundstyle ST122	120	12.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Full marks for aesthetics, but performace falls short of the best.	57	23	28	●						●	●	●
Stands Unique Reflection	379	01.02	★★★★☆	Elegant, slim-pillar designs - offer open treble and plenty of agility.	61	17	20				●	●	●		●	●

Equipment racks

Provide a solid, secure and stylish home for your treasured kit

BUDGET Up to £1100

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Width (cm)	Depth (cm)	Height (cm)	No of shelves	Shelf size (wd) cm	MATERIAL: Steel	MATERIAL: Aluminium	MATERIAL: Wood	MATERIAL: Glass	MATERIAL: Other	Glass shelves
Alphason AD3/105-s	349	04.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	Solid and stylish affair - others get better results from your kit.	54	118	45	3	105/45	●					●
Alphason AD5/ 47CPB	269	09.03/GT	★★★☆☆	It's aesthetically pleasing but it won't suit pricier hi-fi systems.	72	61	52	5	47/52	●					
Alphason Aragon AG54/2	85	08.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Best with mini systems and other light, budget kit.	79	54	44	2	54x33	●					●
Apollo Mezzo Soprano	390	04.04/GT	★★★★☆	This is a superbly versatile rack that reveals fine sound and pictures.	48	55	45	3	55/45	●					●
Atacama Equinox	300	10.01/GT	★★★★★	Accessories Product of the Year, Equinox range, in Awards 2004.	90	55	55	4	55x55	●			●		●



Atacama Equinox

This year's accessories Product of the Year makes such a difference to systems it has to be heard to be believed: bass notes come to life, any treble harshness is softened, and the midrange and vocals become more open and natural. Costing from £140, these modular units are a superb budget upgrade.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
ACCESSORIES
ATACAMA EQUINOX RANGE

Atacama Equinox AV	400	04.04/GT	★★★★★	Accessories Product of the Year, Equinox range, in Awards 2004.	61	106	55	3	106x55	●			●		●
Audiophilebase Standard Base	1032	07.98/GT	★★★★★	Can find an extra level of detail and subtlety. (Tested at £615).	68	57	47	4	57/47		●	●			
Audiophilebase StarBase	1063	12.02/FT	★★★★★	It isn't cheap, but its one of the best supports we've come across.	65	59	52	2	59/52		●	●			

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

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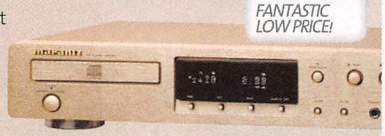


SENNHEISER HD600 HEADPHONES

HD600 reference headphones. Affordable luxury. "Open, revealing, neutral and dynamic" said What HiFi Sound&Vision in their five star review of the Sennheiser HD600s in October 1997.
£149.95 (Was £249.95)

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

SAVE **£100**
WAS: £249.95
NOW: £149.95
AMAZING DEAL OF THE MONTH

MISSION VOLARE 5.1 SPEAKER RANGE

Product	Sale Price	Saving
Mission V60 bookshelf speakers	£149.95	£100.00
Mission V61 bookshelf speakers	£249.95	£100.00
Mission V62 floorstanding speakers	£299.95	£200.00
Mission V63 floorstanding speakers	£399.95	£200.00
Mission V6C centre speaker	£149.95	£50.00
Mission V6AS subwoofer	£399.95	£100.00

All models available in black, beech or cherry at most Superfi stores.

WWW.SUPERFI.CO.UK

OPEN 24 HOURS ONLINE FAST DELIVERY SERVICE

We quote up to ten days as a standard delivery time, although we aim to supply most purchases within three days. This is because, even with the best will in the world, we are reliant on the abilities of our couriers to transport your order efficiently. Years of experience has proved that no 'guaranteed' delivery service can be totally relied upon, so we feel it best to under-promise, rather than disappoint.

HOT DEAL OF THE MONTH
KEF KHT2005 SL HOME CINEMA SPEAKER SYSTEM

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

Still the best. "Seamless integration and outstanding balance, it raises eyebrows by being convincing, refined and composed" Say What HiFi Sound&Vision.
£599.95 (Was £799.95)

SAVE **£200**
WAS: £799.95
NOW: £599.95
SUPER PRICE BUSTING DEAL!

PANASONIC DMRE85 DVD RECORDER

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

SAVE **£200**
WAS: £599.95
NOW: £399.95
FANTASTIC PRICE OFFER!

"Much better than it has any right to be at the price - great stuff from Panasonic", What HiFi Sound&Vision, June 2004.
£399.95 (Was £599.95)

PIONEER DV575SL MULTI-REGION DVD PLAYER

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

SAVE **£30**
WAS: £149.99
NOW: £119.99
SAVE POUNDS OFF RRP!

Multi-format disc spinner. Silver or black. "Universal disc specification; offers outstanding all-round ability" What Hifi Sound& Vision August 2004.
£119.95 (Was £149.95)

Superfi

DENON DM31 MICRO-SYSTEM WITH MISSION-MADE SCM51 SPEAKERS

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARD WINNER ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION Product of the year HI-FI & HOME CINEMA AWARDS

The best value mini-system bar none. Five star product in June 03's edition of What Hi-Fi? Sound&Vision.
£249.95 (Was £299.95)

SAVE **£50**
WAS: £299.95
NOW: £249.95
HURRY! NOT MANY LEFT!

BOWER+WILKINS DM602.3 BOOKSHELF SPEAKERS

"If you are interested in musical performance...they are an outright bargain", "Brilliant bass performance" What HiFi Sound&Vision Awards, 2002. Available in black, oak or apple finish. Stands not included
£299.95

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARD WINNER ★★★★★

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

KEF PSW3000 SUBWOOFER

RF remote control. Built-in 300 Watt amplifier. Choice of finishes.
£299.95 (Was £699.95 SAVE £400)

SAVE **£200**
WAS: £699.95
NOW: £299.95
INCREDIBLE PRICE OFFER!

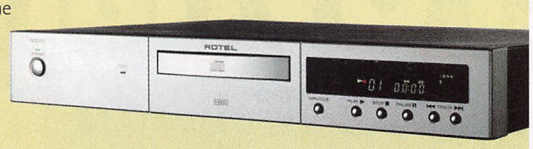
ROTEL RA01 INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

An outstanding route into audiophile Hi-Fi at a remarkably low price.
£249.95

ROTEL RCD02 CD PLAYER

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★

What HiFi Sound&Vision were so impressed with the sound quality, styling and build of this cracking CD player that they awarded it a five star review.
£379.95



SAVE **£200**
WAS: £399.95
NOW: £199.95
LESS THAN HALF PRICE!

ELAC CINEMA 1 MK II 5.1 SPEAKER PACKAGE

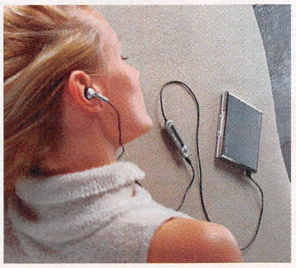
Stylish silver speaker system. Five sleek satellites and compact subwoofer.
£199.95 (Was £399.95)

IN-STORE DEMONSTRATION ROOMS

All of our eleven stores have highly-specced demo rooms. Select the products you want to listen to (or view) and we'll do the rest.

THE SUPERFI TWO YEAR GUARANTEE

To give our customers complete peace of mind, we offer a full two year guarantee on most of our products. Please ask for details.



Equipment racks continued...

Provide a solid, secure and stylish home for your treasured kit

BUDGET Up to £1100

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Width (cm)	Depth (cm)	Height (cm)	No of shelves	Shelf size (wd) cm	MATERIAL: Steel	Aluminium	Wood	Glass	Other	Glass shelves
Clearlight Audio Aspekt	550	04.02/FT	★★★★★	One of the best equipment supports around, if your system justifies it.	75	66	57	4	48/40			●		●	
Clearlight Aud Aspekt Dble Helix	800	09.03/GT	★★★★☆	Excellent system enhancer - build and finish don't justify price.	75	66	57	4	48x40			●		●	
Custom Design Aspect 850	330	03.01/GT	★★★★☆	This is a product that helps deliver tonal evenness and clarity.	85	56	46	5	37x46	●					●
Custom Design Concept 400	320	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Excellent build quality and neat looks, plus a clear and controlled delivery.	70	49	40	2	47x37	●					●
Custom Design elite E5	300	10.01/GT	★★★☆☆	Good, with the distance between shelves adjustable, but not great.	69	62	51	5	37x47	●					●
Custom Design Tuscan 4	200	09.03/GT	★★★☆☆	A mediocre rack from Custom Design in terms design and performance.	50	35	43	4	53x43	●					●
Custom Design Ultra Corner 3AV	380	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Clever stand presents an enjoyable picture and allows for vibrant sound.	53	113	51	3	113x52	●					●
Henley WR-5	350	09.03/GT	★★★★★	Beautifully crafted and boosts performance without costing a fortune.	81	60	54	5	45x42			●			●
Optimum AVFF3 SL	349	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Affordable, space-friendly rack, perfect for small spaces and flat screens.	58	110	40	3	110x61	●			●		●
Optimum OPT 4000	299	08.04/GT	★★★★☆	No-nonsense design that is highly competent and well built.	61	61	52	4	46x37	●					●
Optimum OPT 4906	250	09.99/GT	★★★★☆	The Optimum looks good, sounds good and is reasonably priced.	61	61	52	4	61x52	●			●		●
Optimum OPT 5000	350	08.00/GT	★★★★☆	The OPT 5000 is a sturdy product that provides sharp focus and imaging.	79	61	52	5	61x52	●			●		●
Optimum OPT 5500	350	03.01/GT	★★★★☆	An excellent design from Optimum that's stable and simple looking.	81	61	52	5	61x52	●			●		●
Quadraspire Q4	500	08.04/GT	★★★★☆	The acrylic Q4 delivers an enjoyable sound; a rack to aspire to.	50	60	40	4	60x40		●			●	
Sound Organisation Z545	175	02.99	★★★★☆	The Z545 is an equipment rack that sounds almost as good as it looks.	70	50	40	4	50x40	●			●		●
Soundstyle ST310	395	01.04/FT	★★★★☆	Stylish and roomy AV rack but you're limited to just three shelves.	27	45	21	3	38x21	●					●
Soundstyle Status ST100	350	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Ultra-stable; a class leading performance and worth every penny.	80	78	54	4	57x47	●					●
Soundstyle XS105	345	10.01/GT	★★★★☆	Fine rack, reveals great dynamics and tight, powerful bottom end.	92	67	49	5	56x48	●					●
Stands Unique Sound Tower	319	06.95	★★★★★	A winner for ease of use, quality of sound and price. (Tested at £250)	82	72	42	5	72x42	●		●	●		●
Target S230	229	08.04/GT	★★★★★	Big, solid piece that can both hold things up well, and perform brilliantly.	61	57	83	4	49x50	●		●			
Townshend Seismic Sink Stand	810	05.02/FT	★★★★★	This rack will eke every last percentage point out of a hi-fi system.	69	53	46	4	53x46	●					
Triskom HC-06	499	04.04/GT	★★☆☆☆	Attractive wooden construction but it's not especially good value.	52	100	57	3	100x57			●			●
Triskom Tower 10	400	09.99/GT	★★★★☆	Melamine spine and glass shelves - tested as Tower 1 with four shelves.	115	46	70	4	38x46					●	●
Triskom Tower 12	450	09.03/GT	★★★★☆	Well-designed - soundstage and dynamics feel a little restrained.	100	57	50	6	57x45			●			●

Headphones

A top pair of cans provides a bargain route to quality sounds

BUDGET Up to £750

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: In-ear	On-ear	Over-ear	Open	Closed	Weight (g)	3.5mm jack	6.3mm jack	Cable length (m)	Impedance (ohms)
AKG Hearo 777 Quadra	220	12.02/FT	★★★☆☆	Wireless headphones from AKG that can simulate eight speakers in the cans.			●	●		320	●	●	n/a	
AKG K-55	25	08.99/GT	★★★☆☆	Good imaging and detail although at times we wished for more excitement.			●		●	210	●	●	3	32
AKG K-66	30	04.00	★★★☆☆	These don't suit long listening sessions, but work a treat with the classics.			●	●		210	●	●	3	32
AKG K141 Monitor	85	07.02/GT	★★★☆☆	A retro design and surprisingly comfortable, but they lack dynamic range.		●		●		225	●	●	3	600
Beyer DT 131	30	08.99	★★★★☆	Easygoing, lightweight and comfy - they pack a punch despite low volume.			●	●		130	●	●	2.5	40
Beyer DT 990	160	10.03/FT	★★★★☆	Use a suitable headphone amplifier and you're guaranteed a pleasant listen.			●	●		250	●	●	3	250
Beyer DT231 Galactic	40	Awd.01	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2001. Delivers with confidence and dynamic agility.			●		●	130	●	●	2.5	32
Beyer DTX700	45	03.04/FT	★★★☆☆	This product provides a hefty, punchy listen, but the excitable treble can be tiring.			●	●		180	●	●	3	32
Beyer DTX800	55	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	The Beyer DTX800 is good in parts, but at this price they rate only average.			●	●		190	●	●	3	32
Beyer DTX900	65	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Impressive, and would be ideal for regular headphone users looking for comfort.			●	●		180	●	●	3	32
Bose TriPort	120	12.03/GT	★★★★☆	Excellent pair of headphones - weighty delivery and great style and build quality.			●		●	142	●	●	1.3	
Grado RS1	750	04.04/GT	★★★★★	A ludicrously pricey pair of headphones but the sound is that good - really!			●	●		255		●	2	32
Grado SR125	160	11.99/GT	★★★★☆	Deserve high praise for their sound - only lack of comfort counts against them.			●	●		200		●	2	32

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456 777813

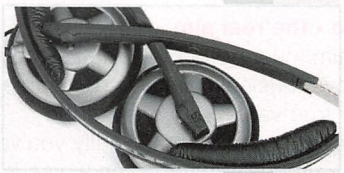
Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

Headphones continued...

A top pair of cans provides a bargain route to quality sounds

BUDGET Up to £750

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: In-ear	On-ear	Over-ear	Open	Closed	Weight (g)	3.5mm jack	6.3mm jack	Cable length (m)	Impedance (ohms)
Grado SR60	90	01.03/FT	★★★★★	Best Buy in the Awards 2002. The Grados offer a remarkably airy, open sound.			●	●		200	●	●	2	32
JVC HA-G11	15	12.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	Uninspiring, but if used very rarely these headphones from JVC might suffice.			●		●	150	●	●	3	32
Panasonic RP-HC50	30	12.03/GT	★★★☆☆	OK if you're after noise-cancelling on the cheap, but not great for everyday listening.	●					7	●			
Panasonic RP-HT455	20	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	The Panasonic's price may appeal but they won't do justice to a lot of music.			●		●	190	●	●	5	
Panasonic RP-WF930 (cordless)	60	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Sensible pricing, but they fail to inspire due to their overly 'safe' balance.			●		●				0	
Philips HD1500 (cordless surr)	350	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Extremely capable and the sound is lovely, but the high price loses them a star.			●		●	n/a			-	-
Philips SBC-HP890	70	10.01	★★★☆☆	Substantial, with vast velvet padded cans, but they sound rather average.			●		●	330	●	●	3	
Pioneer SE-DIR800C (cord. surr)	295	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Easy to use and comfortable, but sound quality disappoints considering the price.			●		●	250			-	
Sennheiser HD 270	80	11.00/GT	★★★★☆	If you want to lock yourself away these circumaural headphones are for you.			●		●	220	●	●	3	64
Sennheiser HD 280 Pro	100	04.04/GT	★★★★★	The HD280 Pros are terrific all-rounders - particularly recommended for DJs.			●		●	220	●	●	n/a	64
Sennheiser HD 570 Symphony	90	11.99/GT	★★★★☆	Near-perfect performance at an affordable price. Will sit comfortably on most heads.			●	●		210	●	●	3	64
Sennheiser HD-500	70	01.99	★★★★☆	Comfortable headphones with sensible styling and up to the mark sound quality.			●	●		210	●	●	3	32
Sennheiser HD25	170	12.03/GT	★★★★☆	Show that closed-back headphones don't have to mean a closed-in sound.			●		●	140	●	●	1.5	70
Sennheiser HD497	50	07.02/GT	★★★★☆	Good value and sound quality is decent for 'phones that are are as svelte as these.			●	●		130	●	●	3	32
Sennheiser HD555	100	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Fine pair but let down by a lack of finesse at low frequencies.			●	●		260	●	●	3	120
Sennheiser HD650	300	02.04/FT	★★★★★	Pricey, but with the right standard of system they are a must listen product.			●	●		260	●	●	3	300
Sennheiser HDC 451	90	08.99	★★★★☆	Look the business and we love the technology used to reduce background noise.		●			●	110	●	●		160
Sennheiser MX500 (in-ear)	20	01.01/FT	★★★★★	Delivers much better bass, imaging and tonal purity than freebie in-ears.	●					6	●		1.0	32
Sennheiser PMX60	30	12.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	Diappointing neckband 'phones - non-adjustable neckband and thin sound.			●		●	55	●	●	1.0	32
Sennheiser PX100	30	04.03/FT	★★★★★	Best headphones in Awards 2004. Superb folding headphones.		●		●		60	●	●	1.4	32



Sennheiser PX100

Best headphones in our Accessories category, the PX100s demand you chuck those free headphones away! For just £30, you get bags more bass, detail and dynamics than you ever thought your personal hi-fi capable of reproducing. The neat folding design and carry case add to the impression of superb engineering.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
BEST HEADPHONES
Sennheiser PX100

Sennheiser PXC250	90	11.03	★★★★★	Noise cancelling 'phones - ideal travel companion for music-loving frequent flyers.		●			●	65	●	●	1.8	300
Sennheiser RS 45	80	10.01	★★☆☆☆	Wireless - sound tinny and insubstantial, regardless of what you feed them.		●	●	●		160	●	●	-	-
Shure E2C	90	05.04/FT	★★★★★	These Shure E2C headphones are one of the best in-ear designs we've heard.	●					30	●		1.57	16
Sony MDR-DS3000 (cordless surr)	200	11.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Don't have the sonic talent to impress and the wraparound effect isn't convincing.			●	●		275			-	
Sony MDR-ED21LP	20	12.03/GT	★★★★★	Superb - these Sonys are an ideal, affordable upgrade for portable users.	●					5	●	●	1	16
Sony MDR-G64SL	18	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Uncomfortable, but look good and have a clear and detailed presentation.		●		●		45	●		0.5	24
Sony MDR-V700DJ	100	04.04/GT	★★★☆☆	In some respects they're impressive headphones, but sound quality is patchy.			●		●	300	●	●	3	24
Turbosound in-ear headphones	20	09.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Designed to protect your hearing, sadly they are uncomfortable and music-killing.	●					16	●		1.0	

Remote controls

Control all your equipment from a single handset

BUDGET Up to £200

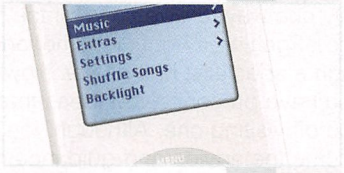
PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	Batteries	Battery life (h)	Rechargeable	Backlight	Touchscreen	Macro functions	PC programmable	Dimensions (hxwxd) cm
Cambridge Audio M1+Explorer	50	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Bargain - its large LCD display and quick learning make it a joy to use.	4xAAA			●	●	●		180x3x8
Cambridge Audio M700	60	10.03/FT	★★★★★	A fantastic remote that comprehensively covers both home cinema and hi-fi functions.	4xAAA	4400		●	●	●		21x6x3
Philips ProntoNEO SBCRU930	200	09.02/FT	★★★★★	Makes your system simple enough for anyone to operate - a worthwhile upgrade.	3xAA			●	●	●	●	18x7x3

MP3 players

Store up to 10,000 tunes and take them everywhere you go

BUDGET Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	PLAYS: MP3	WMA	AAC	Radio	Microphone	Storage capacity	USB	USB 1.1	USB 2.0	FireWire	PC	Mac	Battery life	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
Apple iPod 20GB	219	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Personal/portable Product of the Year in Awards 2004.	●		●			20G	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	6x10x1	158



Apple iPod 20GB

There's not much that hasn't been said already about how cool the Apple iPod is: your whole music collection in one beautiful, easy-to-use, gorgeous, pocket-sized package. And there's the slimmer, fourth-generation model, along with the proliferation of accessories, even web sites, to add to your iPod enjoyment.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
PERSONAL/PORTABLE
APPLE iPOD 20GB

Apple iPod Mini	179	02.05/GT	★★★★★	Gorgeous styling, and a joy to use - others have the sonic edge.	●	●	●			4G	●	●	●	●	●	●	8	5x9x1	101
Apple iPod Photo 60GB	429	02.05/FT	★★★★★	Fourth-generation iPod with a colour screen to view photos.	●		●			60G	●	●	●	●	●	●	15	10x6x1.9	6.4
Archos AV120	230	11.04/FT	★★★☆☆	One of the first multimedia jukeboxes - its looking dated.	●					20G		●	●		●	●	7	11x8x3	290
Archos AV320	586	12.03/GT	★★★★☆	Jukebox with audio and video recording and playback.	●	●			●	20G	●	●	●		●	●	10	11x8x3	350
Archos AV400	400	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Best multimedia portable in Awards 2004. High standards.	●	●				20G		●			●	●	12	13x8x2	280
Archos Gmini 220	250	11.04/FT	★★★★★	This is a little gem - clear display and it sounds great.	●	●			●	20G		●	●		●	●	10	7x8x2.3	170

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS
★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED
Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

REPRINTS
08456777813

What, How & Where

TO BUY YOUR HI-FI SYSTEM

Get the best system for your money by asking our Top Twenty UK specialist hi-fi dealers.

Isn't it easy to buy a new system? You read the magazine product reviews, you find out who sells the recommendations, five-star favourites or best buys at the cheapest price, you order the system, get a friend who knows his onions to install it - and live happily ever after.

This is a fairly well-trodden path but it leads to dissatisfaction, endless upgrades and a lot of wasted money. It's likely that the system will help you lose interest in music pretty rapidly. The problem is that there are more myths about hi-fi than Aesop's Fables. CD gives you perfect sound. All CD players sound the same. A £50 CD player plays high fidelity music. All magazine reviewers are experts. Big speakers are always better than small ones. More watts per channel is everything. MP3 format gives you high quality. A collection of 'Best Buy' components will be a great system. And so on and so on. All myths.

> "...too many people today know the price of everything and the value of nothing."
>
> *Oscar Wilde*

Music - the real aim

Our aim must be to buy a hi-fi system that will prove musically satisfying, reliable and deliver true value for money. If the system doesn't excite you musically you've wasted your money. What is even worse is that you may not even realise you've bought a bad egg – you'll just switch the TV on instead and your desire to listen to music will gradually diminish. Have you ever been in a pub or club where you realise it's very difficult to conduct a conversation, even to the extent of being really tiring? A poor quality system continuously distorts but I don't mean it necessarily reaches the point of audibly breaking up. With a top quality system you can play music very loudly and still hold a conversation because it's free of distortion.

A poor system is tiring to listen to even when it's played at low volume. If you want proof, go into a shoe or clothes shop where they play background 'music' and try to enjoy listening. It's odds on you'll fail.

What and Where to buy

So where do you start? Perhaps it's better to say what you don't start with and that is *WHAT*. It's better to start with *WHERE*. There is only one way to give yourself the best chance of getting it right first time, and that's through a specialist hi-fi dealer. Now it's likely you have preconceived ideas that may put you off visiting one. Although you would welcome the advice and guidance, you don't know the technical jargon. You don't want to be talked down to. Your friend has said they only sell expensive gear and they're not interested if you don't have a big budget. They're expensive. Again, just myths. Most specialist hi-fi dealers are running their business because, above all, they love music. They spend a large portion of their time listening to music and

comparing systems to get the best possible results. They know the component combinations which don't gel together and, conversely, they know the combinations which give the best performance within a given price range. But they all also know the system must suit you.

Buying or being sold to?

Now there's a group of long-established specialist dealers who are totally committed to putting the customer first. Their idea of 'selling' is to discuss your requirements, offer their advice, give you the best options, then play the systems for you and allow you to be the judge.

Listening to your choice of music in a peaceful, well organised demonstration room, you may be surprised and, almost certainly, relieved to discover how easy it is to hear the differences between components and between systems. You'll be able to make a clear and informed decision about what to buy. It comes down to trusting your own judgement rather than the opinion of a reviewer you've never met ...and who won't refund your money if you're not satisfied or be at the end of a phone to sort out any problem you might encounter.

The story doesn't end there. These shops won't abandon you once you've put your hand in your pocket. They won't leave you to set up the system you've selected as best you can. They'll install it in your home, make sure it sounds great, and make sure you're entirely happy with the way it works. Why? Because a high proportion of these dealers' custom comes through people who have bought from them before, either directly or by recommendation. It's vital to them to get it right for you.

Getting the best deal

Oscar Wilde wrote "...too many people today know the price of everything and the value of nothing." Specialist retailers know that not all potential purchasers will seek them out. They tend to attract the more discerning, thoughtful customers. Let's face it, a good deal is about a great deal more than just price. After all, unless you've got money to burn, you'll be living with your new system for years. Most of these dealers offer much longer equipment guarantees than provided by the manufacturer, a very worthwhile benefit, but it also makes it in the dealer's interest to ensure high build quality and reliability. Maybe you could save a few pounds by buying piecemeal but you'll lose out on the overall package. As far as the dealers are concerned, maybe they believe that taking care of their customers properly is a nicer way of doing business than just handing over boxes.

Listed below are 20 of the best hi-fi shops in the country. They have been selected because they are known to do an excellent job in guiding customers towards hi-fi that will give them years of musical enjoyment and total satisfaction.

STAR QUALITIES

VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
SERVICE	★★★★★
FACILITIES	★★★★★
VERDICT	★★★★★

OUR TOP 20 UK SPECIALIST HI-FI DEALERS

LONDON

N1 GRAHAMS HI-FI
190a New North Road
020 7226 5500

SW11 ORANGES & LEMONS
61/63 Webbs Road, Battersea
020 7924 2043

SOUTH

Ashford, Kent
SOUNDCRAFT HI-FI
40 High St. 01233 624441

Chelmsford RAYLEIGH HI-FI
216 Moulsham Street
01245 265245

Colchester RAYLEIGH HI-FI
33 Sir Isaac's Walk 01206 577682

East Grinstead
AUDIO DESIGNS
26 High St. 01342 314569

Horsham AUDIO DESIGNS
7-9 Park Place
01403 252255

Brighton THE POWERPLANT
40 Church Road, Hove
01273 775542

Kingston-upon-Thames
INFIDELITY
9 High Street Hampton Wick
020 8943 3530

Maiden Bradley, Wiltshire
FLAMING BOX
Perry Farm. 01985 845440

Rayleigh, Essex
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
44a High St. 01268 779762

Ringwood, Hampshire
PHONOGRAPHY
Star Lane 01425 461230

Southend-on-Sea
RAYLEIGH HI-FI
132/4 London Road
01702 435255

Southampton PHASE 3 HI-FI
37 Bedford Place
023 8022 8434

Worthing PHASE 3 HI-FI
213-217 Tarring Road
01903 245577

MIDLANDS

Banbury OVERTURE
3 Church Lane
01295 272158

Birmingham SOUND ACADEMY
152a High Street, Bloxwich
01922 493499

Coventry FRANK HARVEY
163 Spon Street
024 7652 5200

Leicester CYMBIOSIS
6 Hotel St. 0116 262 3754

NORTH

Cheadle THE AUDIO WORKS
14 Stockport Road
0161 428 7887

Oldham AUDIO COUNSEL
12/14 Shaw Road
0161 633 2602

Nottingham
CASTLE SOUND & VISION
48/50 Maid Marian Way
0115 9584404

Sheffield
MOORGATE ACOUSTICS
184 Fitzwilliam St
0114 275 6048

Warrington
CHRIS BROOKS AUDIO
29 Gaskell Street
01925 261212

York SOUND ORGANISATION
2 Gillygate 01904 627108

SCOTLAND

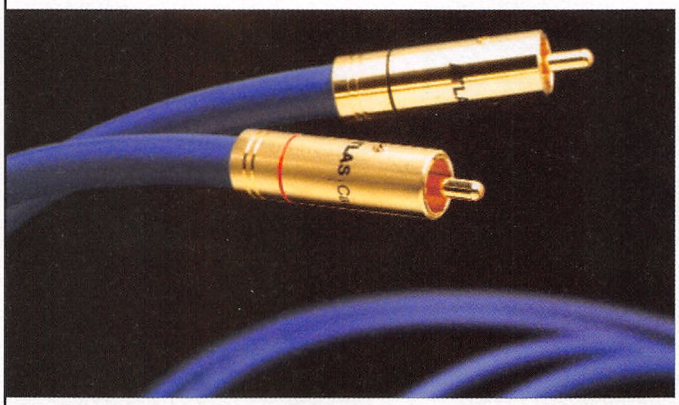
Glasgow STEREO STEREO
260 St. Vincent Street
0141 248 4079

N. IRELAND

Belfast LYRIC HI-FI
429-431 Lisburn Road
028 90 381296

QUALITY ASSURED ★★★★★

It's all in the detail



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AWARDS

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★
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Atlas Compass • August 2002

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Atlas Equator
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Hi-FiNews
Atlas Navigator All Cu
Best Audio Interconnect 2002
Atlas Elektra All Cu PTFE
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Atlas 1.25 • October 2003

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Atlas Vector • August 2002
COMPONENT VIDEO CABLE
Atlas Element • May 2004

ATLAS RETAILERS

London & South East England

• Ashford (Kent) 01233 624441	Soundcraft Hi-Fi www.soundcrafthifi.co.m
• Guildford 01483 504801	P. J. Hi-Fi Ltd www.pjhifi.co.uk
• Harrow 020 8863 0938	Harrow Audio www.harrowaudio.com
• London N7 020 7607 2148	Bartletts Hi-Fi www.bartlettshifi.co.uk
• London W1 020 7580 3527	Hi-Fi Experience www.hifilondon.co.uk
• Worthing 01903 245577	Phase 3 Hi-Fi www.phase3hifi.com

South West England

• Bath 01225 446245	Radfords Hi-Fi www.radfords.co.uk
• Bournemouth 01202 555512	Suttons Hi-Fi www.suttonshifi.co.uk
• Bournemouth 01202 529988	Movement Audio www.movement-audio.co.uk
• Bristol 0117 944 1010	Radfords Hi-Fi www.radfords.co.uk
• Poole 01202 730865	Movement Audio www.movement-audio.co.uk
• Salisbury 01722 322169	Salisbury Hi-Fi www.salisburyhifi.co.uk
• Southampton 02380 228434	Phase 3 Hi-Fi www.phase3hifi.com
• Weymouth 01305 785729	Weymouth Hi-Fi www.weymouthhifi.co.uk

Central England

• Banbury 01295 272158	Overture www.overture.co.uk
• Birmingham 0121 429 2811	Music Matters www.musicmatters.co.uk
• Solihull 0121 742 0254	Music Matters www.musicmatters.co.uk
• Stourbridge 01384 444184	Music Matters www.musicmatters.co.uk
• Sutton Coldfield 0121 354 2311	Music Matters www.musicmatters.co.uk

North England

• Hull 01482 223096	A. Fanthorpe Ltd. www.fanthorpe.co.uk
• Gateshead 0191 477 4167	Lintone Audio www.lintone.com
• Gateshead (Metro) 0191 460 0999	Lintone Audio www.lintone.com
• Sheffield 0114 275 6048	Moorgate Acoustics www.morgateacoustics.co.uk

Scotland

• Aberdeen 01224 585713	Holburn Hi-Fi www.holburnhifi.co.uk
• Glasgow 0141 332 4707	Glasgow Audio www.glasgowaudio.com

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What Hi-Fi, May 2004.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION ★★★★★
May 2004

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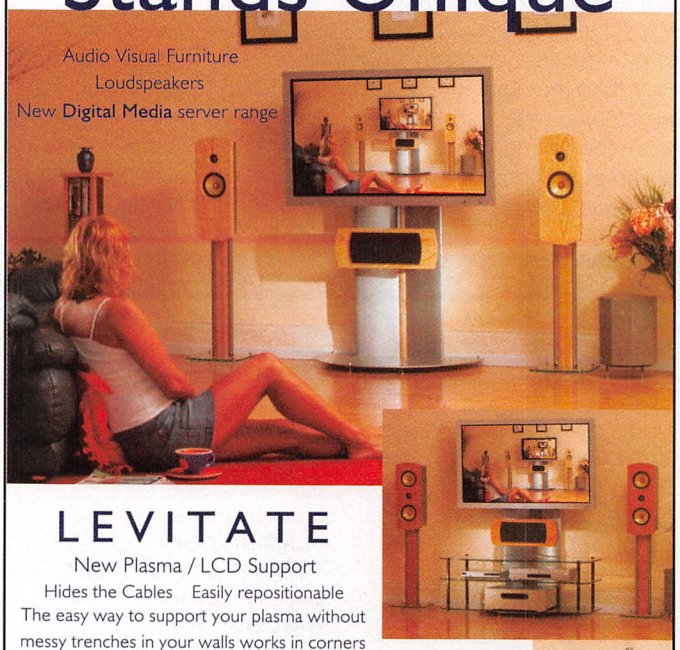

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MP3 players continued...

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BUDGET Up to £600

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	PLAYS: MP3	WMA	AAC	Radio	Microphone	Storage capacity	USB	USB 1.1	USB 2.0	FireWire	PC	Mac	Battery life	Dimensions (hwd) cm	Weight (kg)
Archos Gmini XS200	199	02.05/FT	★★★★★	Ultra compact, sonically superb and impressive specifications.	●	●				20G	●	●	●		●	●	10	8x6x1.9	120
BenQ Joybee 110	99	04.04/FT	★★★★★	Brilliant performance and cute styling - one of our favourites.	●	●			●	128M	●	●			●		10	8x4x2	40
BenQ Joybee 120	120	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Affordable and desirable - the ultraportable to beat.	●	●		●	●	128M	●	●			●		15	8x4x2	24
BenQ Joybee 150	134	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Worth the cost - versatile player that performs well.	●	●		●		128M	●				●		10	6x6x1	40
Creative Jukebox Zen Xtra	270	05.04/FT	★★★★★	A bargain high-performance mega-strorage PC jukebox.	●	●				30G	●	●	●		●		14	11x7.6x2	224
Creative MuVo NX	80	02.04/GT	★★★★★	Brilliant for dynamic and exciting music on the move.	●	●				128M	●				●		12	7x4x2	43
Creative MuVo Slim	150	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Elegant and attractive, but it doesn't match the class leaders.	●	●		●	●	256M	●	●	●		●		17	9x6x.5	34
Creative MuVo TX 256	100	07.04/FT	★★★★★	Not exactly feature-laden compared to some but sounds great.	●	●				256M	●	●	●		●		15	71x36x14	36
Creative Zen NX	250	11.04/GT	★★★★☆	Sounds good and it is not too bulky.	●	●				30G	●	●	●		●		14	8x11x2	226
Creative Zen Touch	220	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Creative's most impressive jukebox yet.	●	●				20G	●	●	●		●		24	7x11x2	203
Creative Zen Xtra	350	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Excellent-value option for high-capacity use.	●	●				60G		●	●		●		14	11x8x2	224
Creative Labs Zen PMC Jukebox	399	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Multimedia - portable video and audio winner.	●	●				20GB	●	●	●		●		22	81x14x27	340
Creative Labs Zen Micro	184	02.05/GT	★★★★☆	Sounds great and looks neat but the controls are fiddly to use.	●	●		●	●	5G		●	●		●		12	5x8x1.9	108
iBead 200	119	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Great sound, great value - put it on your audition list.	●	●		●	●	256	●	●			●	●	14	10x3x2	38
iriver H340	349	11.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Size, price and dreadful design cost it a couple of stars.	●	●		●	●	40		●	●		●	●	16	6x10x2	203
iriver iFP790	140	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Feature-packed, finger-friendly and small in size.	●	●		●	●	256		●	●		●	●	40	9x3x3	37
iriver iGP-100	150	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Determinedly individual device - quirky and compact.	●	●				1.5G		●			●	●	12	8x8x3	108
iriver PMP-140	449	01.05/GT	★★★★☆	Multimedia - quality screen and good file compatibility.	●	●		●		40G	●	●	●		●	●	16	14x8x3	299
Ministry of Sound Stix MP020	80	11.04/GT	★★★★★	A fine funky player for both design and performance.	●	●				128M	●				●		15	9x4x2	29
Ministry of Sound SI Series	280	10.04/FT	★☆☆☆☆	Lacks anything to set it apart in this highly competitive market.	●	●			●	20	●	●	●		●	●	10	7x10x2	190
Ministry of Sound Stix MP043	120	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Brilliant little player but the awful headphones let it down.	●	●				256		●	●		●	●	15	8x3x2	29
Monolith II	120	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Stunning portable, as powerful as the mighty name implies.	●	●		●	●	256		●			●	●	19	4x8x1.5	65
Mpio FD100	119	06.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Good specification, but the performance is disappointing.	●	●		●	●	128M	●	●			●	●	24	7x7x2	61
Mpio FL100	99	02.04/GT	★★★☆☆	Lots of flexibility, but performance is merely average.	●	●		●	●	128M	●	●			●	●	11	4x8x1.4	42
Mpio FY200	170	11.04/GT	★★★★★	Style and sound make this a leading mini contender.	●	●		●	●	256M	●	●			●	●	11	3x8.6x1.6	32
Mpio HD200	189	02.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Promising specs are let down by its aesthetics and controls.	●	●		●	●	5G	●	●	●		●	●	10	6x8x1	55
MPman MP-FOL8	140	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Well specified, light and covetable, but music doesn't sparkle.	●	●		●		256		●			●		13	3x8x1.3	29
Mustek PVR-A1	100	01.05/FT	★★★★★	Multimedia jukebox, cracking introduction to portable video.	●	●			●	32M		●			●		3.5	8x9x2	110
Oregon MP100	80	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Minuscule - it's ultra-portable appeal is undeniable.	●	●		●		128M		●	●		●	●	10	4x3x2	28
Packard Bell AudioDream	100	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Smart little silver player with strong, dynamic sound.	●	●		●	●	128		●			●		10	9x3x2	30
Panasonic SV-MP20V	130	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	If you like a warm mix you'll love this little Panasonic.	●	●		●	●	128M	●	●	●		●		10	4x6x2	34.1
Perstel Adapt DR201	140	06.03/FT	★★★☆☆	Built-in DAB tuner - jack of all trades, master of none.	●			●		64M	●				●		6	6x8x2	80
Rio Carbon	199	02.05/GT	★★★★★	Looks, feels and sounds great - our mini MP3 player of choice.	●	●			●	5G	●	●	●		●	●	20	8.5x6.5x1.5	78
Rio Karma	215	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Good design and strong spec - can't match the best.	●	●				20G	●	●	●		●		15	7x8x3	156
Rio Nitrus	135	11.04/FT	★★★★★	Best MP3 ultraportable in Awards 2004.	●	●				1.5G		●	●		●		16	6x8x1.5	78
Samsung Yepp YP-55	130	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Highly competitive, but the performance isn't class leading.	●	●		●		256M	●	●			●	●	15	9x3x3	56
Sanyo ICR-B170NX	100	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Dedicated stereo voice recorder, decent as an MP3 mini too.	●	●		●	●	64	●	●			●		n/a	12x2x2	57
Tapwave Zodiac	270	01.05/GT	★★★★★	Stunning, truly portable player - games, music and movies.	●	●				32M	●	●	●		●		8	8x14x2	6.3
Thomson Lyra PDP2840U	250	12.03/GT	★★☆☆☆	Lags behind its competitors in design and performance terms.	●	●				20G	●				●	●	10	12x8x3	250
Thomson Lyra PDP2860	299	01.05/GT	★★★☆☆	Multimedia jukebox - isn't bad, but you can buy much better.	●	●				20G	●	●	●		●		12	14x8x2	297
Thomson Lyra PDP2890	500	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Multimedia jukebox - satisfies with both movies and music.	●	●				20Gb	●	●	●		●	●	12	14x8x2	300
WeWa Butterfly	140	11.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	For price and performance, this butterfly doesn't quite fly.	●	●		●		256	●				●		15	9x4x2	62
WeWa Dolphin	100	11.04/FT	★★☆☆☆	Stylish, but the sound lets it down.	●	●				256		●			●	●	12	10x3x2	37
Xclef HD-800	210	11.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Useful player, but sound could be better.	●	●		●	●	20G	●	●	●		●	●	16	7x10x2.2	180
Xen EMP-200	89	11.04/FT	★★★★☆	Offers smooth sound and smart, easy-to-use design	●	●		●		128M		●			●	●	16	8x4x2	40

CD and MD personals

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BUDGET Up to £400

PRODUCT	£	TESTED	VERDICT	WE SAID...	TYPE: CD	CD-RW	MD	MP3	WMA	AAC	Radio	Recorder	PC compatible	Mac compatible	Battery life (hrs)
Aiwa AMNX9	80	07.04/GT	★★★★☆	Very fine MD sound for little cash. Also includes NetMD Simple Burner software.			●	●				●	●		56
Goodmans CDMP3622	39	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Good features, good price, but the sound is fairly thin and mean and it feels flimsy.	●	●		●							20
Goodmans GCD 610	25	10.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Almost unfeasibly cheap, but just don't expect sonic fireworks.	●										20
Ministry of Sound MOSCD025	50	07.04/FT	★★★☆☆	Needlessly large so not as useful as others. Dull top-end and bloated low frequencies.	●	●		●							n/a
Panasonic SL-J910	170	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Sexy CD player that fits pleasingly into a frame when used with its own little speakers.	●	●		●							115
Panasonic SL-SX430	60	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Performance is excellent given what you pay for it: at the price, it's a definite bargain.	●	●		●							50
Panasonic SV-SR100	400	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Fine CD/MP3 that includes a hugely useful SD card slot for recording CDs within the unit.	●			●	●	●		●	●		30
Philips ACT500	100	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Boxed and styled like Nike and ideal for those with a penchant for serious exercise.	●			●							12
Sony D-NE10	160	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Best personal CD player in Awards 2004. Beautiful finish, and lovely remote.	●			●					●		50
Sony D-NF600	120	07.04/FT	★★★★☆	Great-value Sony CD player: with a highly capable tuner it's a bargain at the price.	●			●				●	●		78

Technical terms explained – see *Glossary*, p218

RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★☆ Very good
★★★☆☆ Average
★★☆☆☆ Below par
★☆☆☆☆ Poor

TESTED

Month/FT = First Test
Month/ST = Supertest
Month/GT = Group Test

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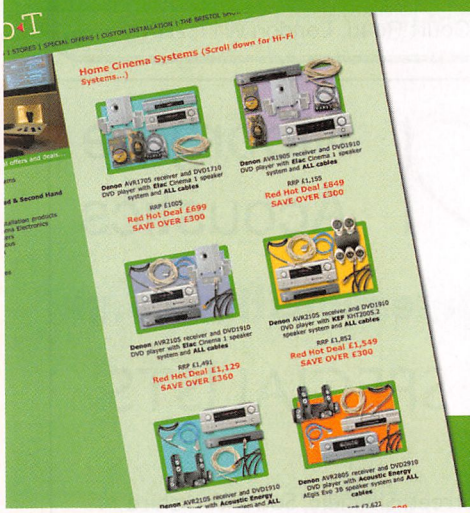

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AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
PROJECTOR
SCREENPLAY 5700

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
AWARDS 2004
BEST PROJECTOR UNDER £1500
ScreenPlay 4805

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
AWARDS 2004
BEST PROJECTOR £3000-£5000
ScreenPlay 7205

Awards 2004 | PROJECTORS

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

ScreenPlay 5700 £2200

VERDICT
The 5700 produces a picture that's comfortable in just about any company – top-quality performance at a super competitive price. You'd have to spend a lot more to better it

"The 5700 serves up a picture so tasty you'll be drooling long before the movie's end credits roll"

The 5700 cost £3000 when it was launched – the recent price cut makes its value unsurpassed

BEST PROJECTOR UNDER £1500

ScreenPlay 4805 £1300

VERDICT
Another stunning success from ScreenPlay. Both the 4805's DLP specification and picture performance suggest a far pricier projector – there's never been a better time to take the big-screen plunge

It may look like a fan heater, but a projector of astonishing ability lurks inside that case

"It has the key features of far pricier projectors, yet costs little more than a decent 32in CRT TV"

InFocus

Screenplay
5700
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
BEST PROJECTOR

Screenplay
4805
BEST PROJECTOR
UNDER £1500

Screenplay
7205
BEST PROJECTOR
£1500-£3000

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Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARDS 2004

BEST STEREO SPEAKERS OVER £2000

Acoustic Energy AE1 MkIII

FULL-SIZE SPEAKER PACKAGES | Awards 2004

BEST FULL-SIZE SPEAKER PACKAGE UNDER £1000

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B £950

→VERDICT

This is three Awards in a row for this brilliant package, standing the test of time by offering one of the finest home cinema experiences, but without compromising your music

THIS PACKAGE HAS been around for some time and since its inception in 2002 it's scooped an Award every year. So, almost by tradition, it's back again for 2004.

The package blew our minds when we first tested it, and it continues to do so, even in the face of the improving competition. No package comes close to matching the Evo 3Bs for drive, focus and ability at this price point. It's terrific fun with movies, and extremely enjoyable with music – making it an exceptional all-round solution.

This 5.1 configuration is based around a pair of Aegis Evo 3 floor-standing front speakers, which are superb stereo speakers in their own right. Like the other cabinets in the system, they use a 25mm silk dome tweeter and 12cm midrange driver, but they carry a 16cm bass driver for extra authority.

Even more bass clout is provided by the compact yet commanding subwoofer, which despite its diminutive dimensions is blessed with great extension and slam. Surround duties are handled by a pair of Aegis Evo 1 standmounts, and completing the configuration is the dedicated Evo Centre, which contributes to the soundfield commendably, adding depth and character to the dialogue.

After some serious running in you won't be disappointed by the Evo's performance. There's plenty of power and punch to enliven any action movie, and detailed subtleties aren't ignored either. The cohesion across the speakers creates an all-encompassing soundfield that envelopes you completely, getting you totally caught up in the on-screen action.

It's not just with movies that this system excels. The hi-fi quality rears lend themselves to excellent multi-channel music. And with the Evo 3s upfront, the package delivers the sort of stereo performance sub/sat systems can only dream of.

Those who take both their hi-fi and home cinema seriously won't find a better all-round package at this price than the Evo 3B.

After a decent running-in period, these speakers are ready to let rip!

TECH SPECS

DIMENSIONS (HWD)
FRONT 88 x 19 x 22cm
REAR 36 x 19 x 24cm
CENTRE 17 x 46 x 19cm
SUBWOOFER 36 x 38 x 31cm
SENSITIVITY 88dB/w/m
IMPEDANCE 8 ohms
FREQUENCY RANGE 36Hz-22kHz
POWER-HANDLING 100w
SUBWOOFER POWER 150w
SUB FREQUENCY RANGE 30Hz-100Hz

((AE))

Acoustic Energy Aegis Evo 3B

BEST FULL SIZE SPEAKER PACKAGE

Acoustic Energy AE1 MKIII *

BEST STEREO SPEAKERS

* The AE 1 MK III is only available in a limited number of dealers nationwide, some of which are shown below.

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARDS 2004

BEST MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER £750-£1000

Arcam AVR250

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AWARDS 2004

BEST CD PLAYER £250-£500

Arcam CD73T

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARDS 2004

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Arcam DV79

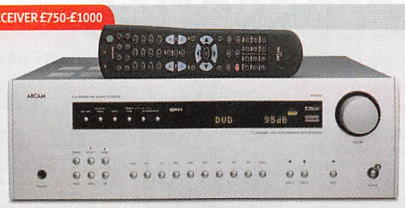
MULTICHANNEL AMPS & RECEIVERS | **Awards 2004**

BEST MULTICHANNEL AMP/RECEIVER £750-£1000

Arcam AVR250 £1000

VERDICT

Flying the flag for dear old Blighty, Arcam's AVR250 receiver is a master of movies and music alike. It's a great one-box solution, and can compete head-on with its Japanese rivals



Multichannel movie sound is superb, as are both surround and stereo music delivery

IN A MARKET dominated by big-name Japanese brands such as Denon and Yamaha – you only need to look at our Awards for proof of that – British manufacturers are few and far between. And one that's capable of winning an Award is almost unheard of, but Arcam's AVR250 is an exception to the rule.

The AVR250 has been designed with a smaller room in mind, as a slightly lower-specified variant of the excellent £1300 AVR300. There's seven-channel capability, and compatibility with the latest surround processing modes, as well as basic multi-room functionality, and video upconversion from S-Video to component, but sadly, no auto-set-up.

In a market dominated by features the AVR250 trails behind some of its rivals, but its sublime sound carries it above the others in its class.

> "The AVR250 lacks some of the features of its rivals but its sublime sound puts it above the rest"

Sonically, it oozes class and ability from every pore. Every genre of film is handled with equal aplomb, delivering a sound with detail, depth and energy. There's no discrimination between treating sonic subtleties, in ambient films such as *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, or the room-shaking special effects seen in *The Day After Tomorrow*. Superb steering builds up an open and expansive atmosphere, whipping the action up into an audible frenzy. It might not be the most powerful receiver in its class, but the confident and composed delivery is utterly realistic.

Another area where the AVR250 excels is with music playback, in both multichannel and, remarkably, stereo. Considering movies are its priority, the Arcam offers striking detail and dynamics. It's another compelling reason why this fine receiver richly deserves its Award.

TECH SPECS

POWER 7 x 75w
DECODING Dolby Digital, Dolby Digital EX, DTS, DTS-ES Matrix, DTS-ES Discrete, DTS 96/24
PROCESSING Dolby Pro-Logic II, Pro-Logic IIx, DTS NEO:6
ANALOGUE INPUTS 7
DIGITAL INPUTS 3 coaxial, 3 optical
DIMENSIONS 15 x 43 x 42cm
WEIGHT 16kg

ARCAM

Arcam
AVR250

BEST MULTICHANNEL RECEIVER £750-£1000

Arcam
CD73T

BEST CD PLAYER £750-£1000

Arcam
DV79

BEST DVD PLAYER £750-£1000

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WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARDS 2004

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
ACCESSORIES
ATACAMA EQUINOX RANGE

Awards 2004 | ACCESSORIES

Accessories

This category has a variety of goodies to tempt you, and they're all surefire performance enhancements

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Atacama Equinox from £140

→VERDICT
The difference that this modular range of racks can make to your equipment has to be heard to be believed: it's a superb, cost-effective upgrade that won't break the bank

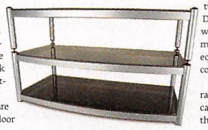
THERE ARE STILL individuals out there who think it's perfectly acceptable to pile expensive hi-fi and home cinema equipment on the nearest flat surface, even if that surface turns out to be the floor.

Well, we're professionals and, inevitably, we know better. This is an order! Get your equipment off that coffee table and on to a dedicated rack – ideally, something from Atacama's superb Equinox range.

A basic two-shelf hi-fi unit costs just £140, with extra modules £70 a piece. The double-width AV unit mirrors the hi-fi racks' professional look and excellent build quality, costing from £400 for two units.

In each case, shelf modules are effectively isolated from the floor and each other by heavy-duty spikes, while the shelves are decoupled from the frame to prevent any unsettling vibrations. This all benefits sound and picture qualities to an almost startling degree.

The difference that the Equinox can make to budget-to-midrange systems has to be heard (or seen) to be believed. Bass notes come bounding to life, gaining superior definition, and any hardness in your system's treble is softened.



Voices become far more articulate and eloquent – in fact, the whole midrange is noticeably more natural and open. Rhythms are appreciably tighter, too, with more snap and twang to their timing. Similarly, any DVD player sited on the Atacama will deliver stronger, richer and much more natural colours, with equally marked improvements in contrast and detail.

The impact the Atacama Equinox range could make on your system can't be overstated. As upgrades go, this could be the most cost-effective.

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
AWARDS 2004
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
ACCESSORIES
ATACAMA EQUINOX RANGE

Atacama

Atacama
Equinox Range

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
BEST EQUIPMENT RACK

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Sound and Vision
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WHERE TO BUY OUR WINNERS

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION

AWARDS 2004

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

CD PLAYER

CYRUS CD8x

Awards 2004 | CD PLAYERS

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Cyrus CD8x £1000

→VERDICT

An outstanding all-rounder, with a rhythmic, emotional delivery and sensational levels of detail retrieval; it's also upgradable to give even better levels of performance

FOR THE PAST year, Cyrus's CD8 has dominated this heavyweight category of CD players with all the authority and confidence of Mike Tyson in the ring in his prime. Now, believe it or not, it's managed to push the performance to new extremes with the addition of the 'x' factor and the introduction of the CD8x.

The way it brings music to life is worringly addictive – you can't wait to swap from one favourite track to the next. Bass is taut, well-defined and musical, while treble is smoother and more refined compared to that of the CD8, let alone other lesser players. Vocals and instruments ooze emotion: you can't help but be impressed by the Beverly Knight track *Come As You Are*, for example.

There's also a real sense of attack on display: nothing is held back, but at the same time there's no rushed delivery. This is supplemented by excellent timing: the music stops and starts with unerring accuracy. Then there's the sensational soundstage: with The Hives' track, *Walk Idiot Walk*, prepare to be taken aback by the broadness of the presentation.

As is mentioned in the CD6 Award on the facing page, CD6 and CD8 owners can upgrade to this new model for the single price (the same new printed circuit board is added) of £450. And like the CD6, the CD8x can accommodate a PSX-R power supply. With these two working in tandem, you have one heck of a player, which will take some beating.

> "There's a real sense of attack on display – nothing is being held back from the musical assault"

These sonic improvements are a result of a new, multi-layer printed circuit board and PSX-R-like power

WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION AWARDS 2004

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

CD PLAYER

CYRUS CD8x

Just when you thought the CD8 was as good as it gets, the CD8x smashes through the performance sound barrier

layout. There's also been an overhaul of the CD8x's base-plate. The old aluminium item has been replaced with a one-piece, non-metallic unit, constructed so the silver/copper outer skin shields internal components from outside interference.

All these tweaks have redefined what you can expect at this price point. This CD player is magnificent!

TECH SPECS

ANALOGUE OUTPUTS RCA
DIGITAL OUTPUTS Optical, coaxial
REMOTE CONTROL Yes
CD TEXT No
DIMENSIONS (HWD) 8 x 22 x 37cm
WEIGHT 3.5kg

CYRUS

Cyrus CD8x

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
BEST CD PLAYER

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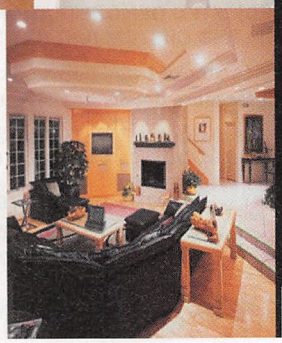

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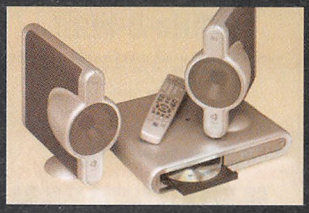

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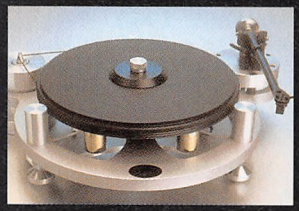

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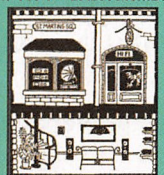

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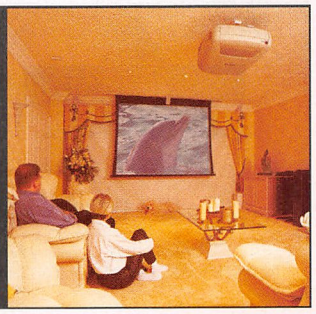

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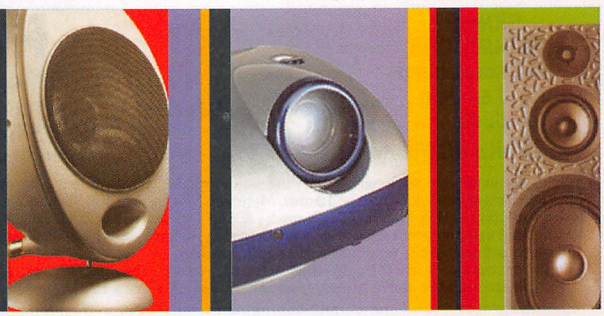

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GLOSSARY

A

AAD Seen on CD cases, this means the music has been recorded and mastered in analogue form – the first two 'A's – but stored digitally on the disc.
ADD Music recorded in analogue form ('A'), which has been mastered or remastered digitally ('D'), and then stored digitally on the CD (the third 'D').
AMPLIFIER Boosts signals to drive speakers. Can be one-box (integrated) or have separate pre and power sections.
ANALOGUE LPs/cassette tapes store audio in non-digital form directly related to the signal.
ANAMORPHIC Anamorphically enhanced DVD discs have been coded to offer improved picture quality on widescreen TV sets and banish most, if not all, of the letterbox effect, too.

B

BASS Low frequencies, often hard to reproduce. A review that says bass is slow means it goes 'whoompa-whoompa' and can dominate the music. The ideal is good bass extension allied to speed and rhythm.
BASS REFLEX A speaker design using air-flow from a port in the cabinet to help deliver extended bass reproduction.

BIAMPING Each drive unit of a speaker is driven by a separate amp channel, so a pair of two-way speakers needs two stereo amps and two runs of cable to each speaker. See biwiring.
BINDING POST Speaker terminal that has a threaded collar for gripping bare wires and sometimes a socket that'll take banana plugs, too.
BIT A single piece of digital information, basically an 'on/off' signal. Digital-to-analogue converters turn strings of bits into audio signals.
BITSTREAM A method of turning digital CD data into analogue signals. Bitstream digital-to-analogue converters process single bits of digital data much faster than multibit DACs, which work on chunks of digital data.
BIWIRING Some of the benefits of biamping, but at lower cost. You need suitable speakers (with two sets of inputs and a split crossover), then send twin runs of cable from the amp (again if suitable) to each speaker.
BRIDGING Increasing power by connecting a stereo power amp for use in mono, then adding a second bridged stereo amp for the other channel. Power typically triples, but the amps must be designed to be bridged.

C

CARTRIDGE The device that plays a record. It converts the wobbles in the record's groove into electrical signals for your amp. See moving magnet and moving coil cartridge types.
CD-R CD-Recordable. Uses a special blank disc in a recording CD player. Once recorded it can't be erased, but plays in standard CD players when 'fixed up'.
CD-RW Rewritable discs that can be erased and recorded on again and again. Work in all CD-R recorders, but not on all CD players or in-car units.
CLASS A Amp in which positive and negative half cycles are amplified together. Runs hot, because the transistors in the power amp are on all the time, but has high-quality sound.
CLASS B Positive and negative halves of the signal dealt with by different parts of the circuit, the output devices switching continually. Amp runs cooler, though the sound is not as pure.
COLORATION This is a shift away from the natural rendition of music. Coloration is undesirable 'boomy' bass, a 'nasal' midband or 'splashy' treble.
COMPRESSION Used by radio stations to reduce level differences between loud and soft parts of music. Helps in-car and transistor sound, but can be awful heard through a hi-fi tuner.
CROSSOVER The circuit inside loudspeakers which splits the incoming signal, sending the high frequencies to the tweeter and the low ones to the woofer.
CRT Cathode Ray Tube. The technology behind conventional televisions and large, high-end video projectors. Three colour tubes – one red, one green and one blue – are 'converged' to create an image on the screen.

D

DAB Digital Audio Broadcasting: digital radio on both BBC and independent stations. Can offer better, hiss-free sound.
DAC Digital-to-analogue converter, turning on/off pulses into analogue sound. CD players have DACs built-in. Separate DACs can upgrade a CD player or other digital player/recorder, or can be used with CD transports.
DATA COMPRESSION Lowers the amount of data needed to store music. Sony's MiniDisc uses a system called ATRAC (Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding), removing signals its designers think you can't hear.
DDD On CD cases – music recorded and mastered digitally and stored digitally on CD.
DECIBEL (dB) Measures sound pressure. A change of 1dB is just about audible, while +10dB sounds like the level has been doubled.
DIGITAL OUTPUT Allows the digital signal to be recorded or processed by an offboard DAC. Electrical or optical (fibre-optic) outputs allow this.
DISTORTION Signals that are unwanted or signal changes added by the equipment itself.
DOLBY B, C + S Noise-reduction systems to boost quiet signals when recording and reduce them on playback, cutting hiss.
DOLBY DIGITAL A home cinema sound system from Dolby, using five discrete channels of digital sound plus a separate channel for a subwoofer. Formerly known as AC-3.
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX Development of Dolby Digital 5.1 surround audio that includes a 'matrixed' centre-rear signal for greater surround envelopment. Needs suitable decoder, with amplification, and one or two additional centre-rear speakers.
DOLBY HX PRO A means of recording more high-frequency information without distortion.
DOLBY SURROUND Encodes the sound for rear effects channels into the stereo tracks. Needs to be replayed through a suitable decoder to produce surround sound, though.
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC Uses an extra centre speaker at the front for dialogue, and mono rear channels for surround effects.
DTS Discrete 5.1 channel home cinema digital sound system.
DTS ES MATRIX 6.1 Variation on the Dolby Digital Surround EX theme; similar results.
DTS ES DISCRETE 6.1 The only 'true' 6.1 system, with an entirely discrete digital channel providing centre-rear channel effects.
DUAL-MONO Some amps are designed to keep left and right signals separate to minimise interference between them.
DVD-AUDIO High-resolution audio format that offers multi-channel surround-sound music and 24-bit/96KHz stereo.
DVD-VIDEO Video format on CD-sized disc – huge capacity for movies, with widescreen and multichannel surround sound.
DVD-R/-RW The recordable DVD format supported by Pioneer. DVD-R recordings can't be erased, but DVD-RW discs are able to be re-used.
DVD+RW Developed by Philips, this alternative rewritable format can record up to four hours of DVD video on a 4.7GB disc.

DVD-RAM Panasonic's take on recordable DVD, which includes a 'time slip' function allowing you to watch the start of a programme recording the rest.
DVI-D A high-quality digital connection for DVD players and displays, which carries audio and video without ever converting it to analogue.
DYNAMIC RANGE The range, in decibels, between the largest and smallest audio signals reproduced by hi-fi.

E

ELECTROSTATIC Speakers that use the force of high voltages to push and pull a thin, light diaphragm, which can produce exceptionally clean sound.

F

FREQUENCY High-pitched sounds have a high frequency, whereas low-pitched ones have a low frequency. Audible sounds range from about 16Hz to 20kHz.

H

HDCD High Definition Compatible Digital – a coding system for compact disc that aims to get better sound. Needs a CD player fitted with a suitable decoder to be heard.
HDMI A high-quality digital connection going from DVD players to displays – competing with – and slightly superior to – DVI-D connections.
HERTZ (Hz) Unit of frequency. One Hz means a signal has one cycle per second.
HORN LOADING Improves a drive unit's efficiency, using a structure within the speaker that's shaped like a horn.

I

IMPEDANCE A low impedance draws a high current flow from the source, while a high impedance draws a little. Speakers with a low impedance are more difficult for an amplifier to drive.

L

LINE LEVEL Describes inputs that don't need amplifying before the amp can use them.
LCD Liquid Crystal Display. Found in both compact projectors and, increasingly, flatscreen televisions.

M

MIDBAND The frequency range where most of the instruments

WHAT DIGITAL MUSIC FORMAT SHOULD I CHOOSE?

AAC
The Advanced Audio Coding format was developed by a number of companies including Dolby, Sony and Nokia and brought to prominence by the Apple iPod. Improved coding techniques mean better performance than MP3, offering a fuller, richer sound at the same bit-rate. It's not CD-quality, but it's currently the best available for downloading manageable files at standard bit-rates. It's a shame it's mainly only for Apple hardware, though some alternatives are now available.

APPLE LOSSLESS
Using a 'less-compressed compression' means bigger files, but better sounds. Files take up more space on your hard disk – but when burning files to CD and then into iTunes, it's as close to the original quality as you can get. Sonically, it's the best – it's just a shame they're so large, and that it's a format that's Apple-only... for now.

ATRAC 3
Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding, no less. Originally developed for MiniDisc, this is a Sony-only format. It compresses to around one fifth of the original CD audio file size – less than MP3 – and sound quality is impressive. However, even Sony has finally recognised MP3 is a far more popular format.

MP3 (MPEG1 , Layer3)
The original compressed format, and the buzzword around which digital music players were built. Due to ease of use and availability, MP3 remains the most popular format, but it has been overtaken in terms of quality. The common bit-rate of 128kbps produces a rather thin sound .

WMA
Microsoft's format, developed for use with the Windows Media Player, and now compatible with many hardware players. Popular with PC-based downloaders and now common on many legal download sites. It sounds better than MP3 at comparable bit-rates.

and voices are heard. It must be of a high quality if singers, guitars, trumpets, and so on, are to sound natural.
MINIDISC Sony's 64mm magneto-optical disc format. Re-recordable and easy to edit. The Hi-MD format has seen 1GB discs made available and the ability to link players directly to a PC.
MONOBLOC An independent mono power amplifier – so two monoblocs are required to run in a stereo system.
MOVING COIL Cartridge design in which a stylus is connected to coils that move in relation to fixed magnets, therefore creating electrical signals. Has lower output than moving-magnet cartridge design.
MOVING MAGNET Cartridge design in which a very small magnet connected to the stylus moves relative to a fixed coil in the body, therefore generating the signal.
MP3 MPEG 1 Layer 3. The compression system used for downloading music files from the internet to a PC or MP3 recording device. It reduces file sizes by a factor of 12 to enable much faster downloads.

N

NICAM CD-quality digital stereo sound transmitted alongside the picture during terrestrial TV broadcasts. Your TV needs to be Nicam to receive a stereo signal.

O

OHM Unit of resistance to current. Impedance of a speaker is measured in ohms – the lower the figure the harder it is to drive.

P

PHONO STAGE Cartridges output signals at much lower levels than CD players. Many amps have the extra amplification built-in, but increasing numbers don't, and require an add-on phono amp.
PLASMA Currently the dominant type of large, flat TV. Plasmas use neon/xenon gas sandwiched between two thin plates of glass. Electrical impulses are passed through the gas at specific points as required. This causes the gas to react, which creates a 'pixel'. There are more than a million pixels in the average plasma TV.
PMPO Stands for peak music power, quoted for gear like mini systems and ghetto-blasters to make them look more powerful.
POWER AMPLIFIER Supplies audio signals from the source component to the loudspeakers.
POWER-HANDLING The highest safe power for speakers. But it's easier to damage speakers with an amp of too low power driven hard, than with too much power.
PREAMPLIFIER The control part of an amp. Built into integrated amps, but can be separate and used with a power amp or active loudspeakers.
PRO-LOGIC see Dolby.
PROGRESSIVE SCAN Technology that creates DVD pictures in one hit. Gives clearer, flicker-free images than the conventional system, which uses interlaced, rapidly refreshed horizontal lines. Now available for both US and UK DVDs.

R

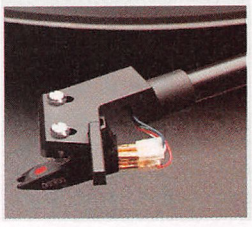
RDS Radio Data System. Data piggybacked on FM radio allowing RDS tuners to display the names of stations, and perform a range of functions.

S

SAMPLING RATE How fast a digital recorder or player samples a signal. CD and MiniDisc use a rate of 44.1KHz – ie 44,100 samples per second – while DAT recorders offer a choice of 48KHz or 44.1KHz, and Digital Audio Broadcasting works on 32KHz.
SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO The difference between the level of the audio signal and the level of unwanted noise present in that signal. The larger the figure, which is measured in dB, the lower the noise in the signal.
SIX-CHANNEL INPUT Many DVD players now have built-in Dolby Digital decoders. To take advantage of these they need to be connected to a home cinema amp with a six-channel input.
SUBWOOFER A separate woofer box to produce the deep lows.
SUPER AUDIO CD (SACD) Developed by Sony and Philips, SACD uses one-bit Direct Stream Digital (DSD) technology. Most discs are dual layer, with a CD layer that will play on a normal CD player and an SACD layer for better performance when replayed on an SACD machine.
SURROUND EX Decoding system for Dolby Digital Surround EX software. Mode can also be applied to DTS-ES software.

T

TAPE LOOP Two sockets on an amplifier that let the signal out for tape-deck recording; there's another pair that let the signal back in for replay. So you can record and check recordings.
TONEARM The device on a turntable that holds the cartridge in place.



THROW RATIO Never buy a projector without making sure it'll fit in your room. First decide what size screen you want. Then measure the distance your new projector will be from the screen. Finally, use the throw ratio to work out if the projector is suitable. You'll find more details in your projector's manual.
THX Developed by LucasFilm, a set of standards for Dolby Pro-Logic gear that should ensure a certain quality of home cinema sound. Needs kit made to exacting specifications.
TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER Transformers bring mains voltages down to the levels required. Toroidal transformers (doughnut-shaped) get better stability and less flux leakage (magnetic radiation that can interfere with other circuits).
TRANSIENTS Short and sudden events in music such as a cymbal crash or the crack of a stick on a snare drum. Transients are difficult to reproduce.
TREBLE High frequencies. When we say treble is splashy, it means that cymbals, for example, sound like they're going 'tizzshsh', rather than having a sting and a crispness to them.
TWEETER The small speaker driver that handles treble frequencies.

V

VALVE Amplifying device: electrodes in a glass vacuum enclosure. Produces a warm, seductive sound.

W

WATT Unit of power. More watts mean more power, but how loud a system sounds also depends on speaker sensitivity and room size. See PMPO.
WIDESCREEN More and more TV programmes, and nearly all DVD discs, are produced in widescreen format. This can vary from 14:9 (a compromise ratio used by TV broadcasters) to 16:9, which is the ratio used on widescreen television sets and by most DVDs. Many films shown at the cinema are in 21:9, so you'll still get black bars on a widescreen television. Old-fashioned 'square' televisions use a 4:3 aspect ratio.
WOOFER The large drive unit in a speaker that produces the bass frequencies.

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V
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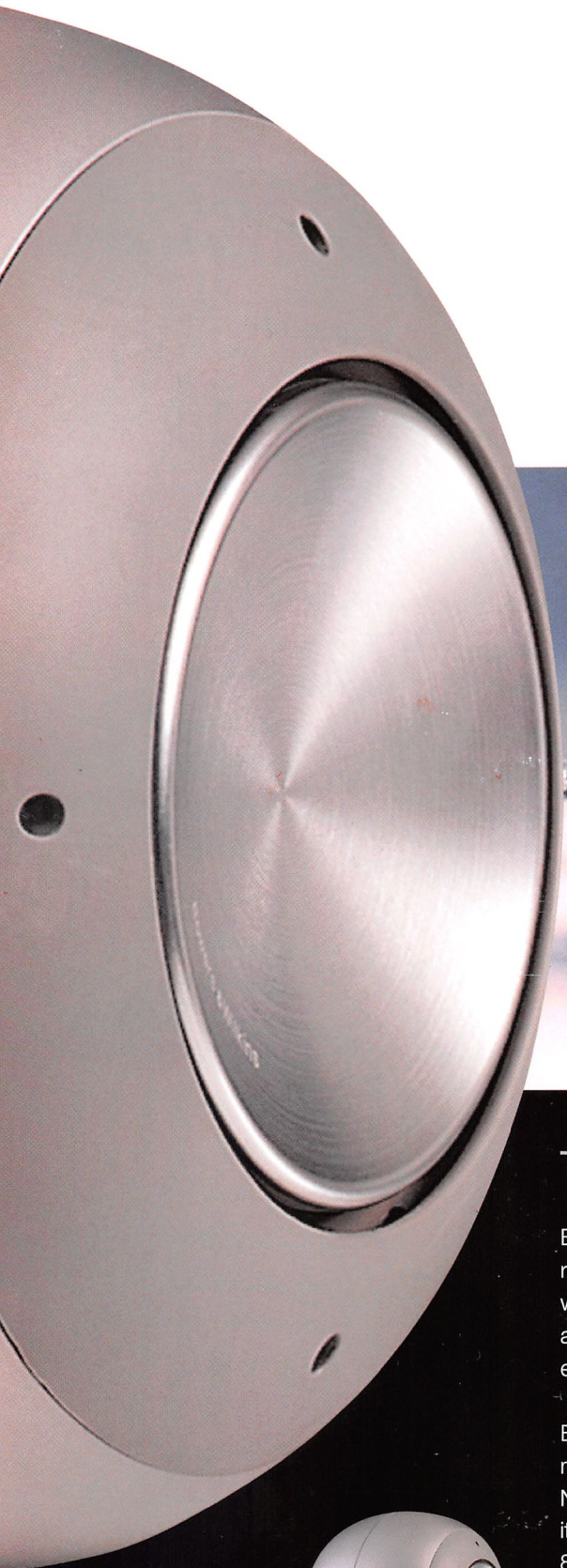

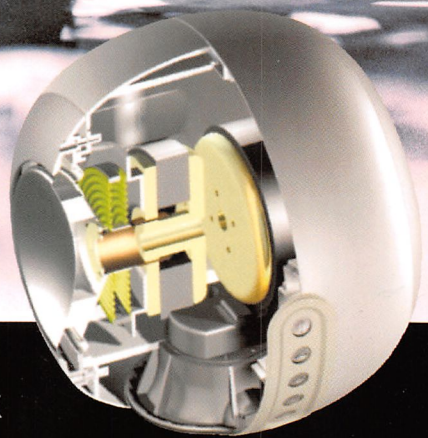

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